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THURSDAY, JANUARY 13TH, 2011

When the snows came... AND THE BRIDE WORE WELLIES!

EVERYONE has a tale to tell about the snow that fell in the Vale on December 17.

For some, it was a case of whether or not they could make it to work, as minor roads became impossible to drive on, and bus timetables were thrown into chaos.

For others, it meant the cancellation of office parties on that frozen Friday – traditionally the busiest night of the year for pre-Christmas fun.

However, consider the feelings of Richard and Mary Connelly of Llandough, near

by PHILIP IRWIN

Cowbridge, as they gazed out on the snowy wilderness – because the following day (Saturday) their daughter Shirley was due to be married in their local church, St Dochwys!

What's more, Shirley and her intended, Nick Dawe, had flown home, all the way from Perth in western Australia, for the family occasion.

Richard Connelly told the GEM: "We woke up to 100mm of snow, spread evenly over the village.

"The weather on the Saturday was clear blue skies and sunshine, which made it an interesting challenge for the wedding and reception, but also made for a great day with great fun and great photos."

The carefully-planned arrangements, taking all eventualities into account (*well, almost every eventuality!*) meant that the wedding would be followed by a reception at Court Colman Manor, Bridgend.

Richard Connelly said: "On the Saturday, I was out before sunrise with my two sons clearing the snow in front of the church.

"We were really grateful when a number of villagers joined us later to help. We then collected the priest, Father Julian, and the organist, Richard Haines from their homes in a 4x4, as they were otherwise not able to get to the church.

"The groom and best man arrived just in time – as they had to tow four cars out of the road near Court Colman where they were staying, before they could get to the church!"

The bride had always planned to walk from the family home to the church, accompanied by mum and dad, and the hard work of snow clearing by her family and the villagers meant that she could – although smart shoes had to be exchanged for wellies!

At the church gate, Shirley and her mum changed into proper shoes to enter the church with Dad and schoolfriends, chief bridesmaids, Kate Ward and Katie Every-Clayton.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

ABOVE: The bride, her father, and bridesmaids at the church gate. (Her wellies were replaced by smart shoes for her walk up the aisle! See page 3 for more pictures).

MAKE WAY, THERE..!

LEFT: This "rather abnormal load" carefully wended its way through the centre of Cowbridge on Sunday. For the full story and more pictures by GLYN EVANS, see page 15.

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Gritting policy: Council replies

AS the cabinet member for visible and building services at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, I feel compelled to respond to the recent letter from Claire Curtis, Labour candidate for Barry Town Council, concerning this council not gritting Winston Road and Meggit Road in Barry.

Winter maintenance is within my cabinet portfolio, and I am justifiably proud that staff within the visible cervices section were able to keep the main highways of the Vale open during the recent snow fall.

The council currently treats 43 per cent of its highway network and we are simply not able to treat every road or bus route.

There are no significant inclines on Winston Road or Meggit Road and, therefore, whilst these roads are well used, they would not be considered as high a priority as some other roads within the Vale.

Readers will no doubt appreciate the demand for highway treatment.

Our contact centre received hundreds of service requests from residents for snow clearance and gritting during the recent cold weather.

At the end of our winter maintenance operations, we review our actions and consider any changes necessary to our current performance, including gritting routes.

Any additions to the current routes will, however, have to be balanced within our available budget.

Coun Geoffrey Cox,
Cabinet member for visible and building services, Vale of Glamorgan Council

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Airport charges: 'trolleys needed to be replaced'

A RECENT letter by D Andrews of Llantwit Major criticised service at the airport, in relation to introducing charges for trolleys and access to the terminal.

Just because you charge for something doesn't mean it is bad service. When you use a service and are later required to contribute to making it better or keeping it going, that doesn't imply bad service either.

Charging and service are two different things.

For the avoidance of doubt, the old trolleys were out of date, dilapidated and potentially hazardous so needed to be replaced.

Saying that foreign passengers may not have British coins and should not be charged for services at the airport, is like saying every country in the world cannot charge for anything, just in case visitors arrive and have to buy something.

However, the new trolleys do accept euros, as well as pounds.

The new trolley scheme brings Cardiff Airport in line with a number of other international and UK airports, including Bristol and Birmingham airports, who have also introduced a charge for trolleys, in order to provide a better quality trolley service for passengers.

In terms of terminal access, visitors to the airport have the option of using the priority drop-and-go and priority pick-up areas outside the terminal building for £1, or a free drop-off and pick-up area in Long Stay 1 car park, a short distance from the terminal building.

Passengers are certainly not an inconvenience as D Andrews suggests, and we would encourage passengers to contact us directly with feedback.

Cassie Houghton,
Cardiff Airport

Foodstore plan: IS CAR PARK TOO BIG?

MAY I say a big thank you to the Bird family and Waitrose for affording us the opportunity to see the proposals for the new Waitrose supermarket, and to give our comments.

It is good news that such a reputable organisation is considering contributing to our town and developing the fast deteriorating former garden centre site.

I do, however, share some of Mr D Malone's concerns expressed last week, regarding the potential threat to existing family-owned provisions shops.

Are people aware also, that the proposed site is bigger than the current footprint of the former Hurrans? The plan as I understand it is for the car park to spread over the existing footpath right up to the wall of Holy Cross Church.

The footpath would be re-routed ('improved'), through the extended car park, and small but important areas of habitat obliterated under yet more tarmac. To my mind, this proposal is too big for the relatively small town-centre site.

I gather the extension of the ground-plan would allow for 150 parking spaces, rather than 100 on the current area.

Bearing in mind that these spaces would turn over throughout the day, do we really need to make the car-park so big, attracting so many cars right into the very heart of our small town which already struggles to cope safely with the volume of traffic – and in doing so, remove a charming, safe footpath to the High Street?

Mrs Margot Hopwood,
Cowbridge

'Gritting review needed, but...'

I WAS rather surprised to see a recent letter from the Labour candidate for the Dyfan Ward by-election in Barry about gritting.

She is absolutely right, Winston Square was appalling and local buses were forced to use Port Road instead, meaning local residents were forced to remain in their homes.

In fact, I raised this matter at the last full council meeting of the Vale Council and was told by a Labour member that this was not the case and buses did serve this area.

With an election on the horizon, the Labour candidate not only repeats the points that I made and was shot down for, but also copied the comments made by the FocusBARRY candidate Jeffrey Heathfield in an earlier edition of the local papers.

I understand that Mr Heathfield has since taken up this matter with both the Vale Council and Cardiff Bus to ensure that this matter does not happen again.

I fully agree with both candidates that a review of the gritting policy is required in this area, but to be shot down only a couple of weeks earlier by Labour on exactly the same matter beggars belief.

I think it is time to show party politics the red card!

Coun Richard Bertin,
Barry
(Independent member, Vale of Glamorgan Council)

REMEMBERING PIONEERS OF THE FAIRGROUND

I READ with interest your article on John Collins and his well deserved OBE, but I must point out that his father, Pat Collins, was not the original founder of the fairground.

My grandfather, Thomas White, along with his brothers William and George and their father Sidney, brought the first rides to Barry. In 1897, Sidney purchased the original switchback railway, along with a few carousels and a set of swingboats made by him.

He operated them from the main beach each summer season; then in 1923, Barry Town Council replaced the tarmac shoreline road with a new promenade.

The fairground was then relocated from the beach to its current site.

Sidney and his sons became the first tenants and took control until the end of the 1929 season. They were known as The White Bros.

In 1930, the lease passed over to Mr Pat Collins and White Bros moved across the road to Cosy Corner, where the family continued to trade until the death of Jack Reahorn, nephew of the White Bros in 2007, 100 years after Sidney White first brought his ride to Barry.

I felt I had to put the records straight as I do not want my family to be forgotten.

In the early years, the White Bros gave a lot of support to the town of Barry as it first developed.

Mrs Pat Jones, Barry

'FocusBARRY and reality...'

THEY may call themselves a new party ('FocusBARRY for a real bargain' in last week's GEM letters) but FocusBARRY seem more willing than anyone to resort to old politics of personal attacks and negative campaigning.

They will moan and promise everything to everyone, but know that they can deliver nothing.

My maths was never the best – but put simply, the Vale Council, which delivers 95 per cent of your local government services, consists of 47 councillors, and Barry contributes just 18 of those councillors.

That means that even if FocusBARRY took every single seat in Barry, they would still be unable to take control of the Vale Council.

Of course, being called FocusBARRY, I suspect they would not get any support from the other towns and villages that make up the Vale of Glamorgan!

All FocusBARRY will do is ensure that the Conservatives, with Coun Gordon Kemp at the helm, will remain in control of the council.

As a Barrian born and bred, I am proud of my town and know that the Tories do not have the answers to the many problems facing Barry.

Coun Rob Curtis,
Barry

Thanks for response to Christmas appeal

WA BROWN and Son, Funeral Directors of Llantwit Major, would like to thank all who attended the bereavement memorial service in St Illtud's church, and for the donations given for the memorial Christmas tree.

Altogether, the sum of £200 was raised and will be shared between St John Ambulance Brigade and the Galilee chapel project at the church.

A G Thompson,
Funeral Director

School is a credit to Llantwit Major

ON December 15, the Wednesday over-60s group at Bethel Baptist Church were invited to the Comprehensive School, Llantwit Major, for lunch and a concert given by the pupils.

I would like to convey our sincere thanks to all of the staff and pupils who gave up so much of their time to ensure that everyone enjoyed themselves.

I also wish to thank the pupils for the wonderful hampers we were all given to go home with.

What a credit this school is to the town of Llantwit Major.

Frances Adney,
Llantwit Major

Finder thanked

PLEASE can I say a big thank you to the person who picked up my insulin pen in Three Fields last Friday and left it on the wall in Piccadilly.

It fell out of my pocket in the snow and had been missing for some time, so it was a great relief to find it had not caused any harm. Many thanks again to the person who found it.

Rebecca Exley,
Llanblethian

Researching owner of Duke of Wellington

AS part of a family history project, I am researching Thomas Pratt (1887–1975) who kept the Duke of Wellington Hotel in Cowbridge.

He was originally from Worcestershire and had three brothers (two of whom died in the First World War) and a sister.

Thomas had children, George and Rose. I would love to hear from anyone who remembers him or his family, particularly any descendants.

My email address is *ss24@soas.ac.uk.*

Stephen Sanders, London

'Good luck to cinema group!'

LIKE the majority of residents of Barry, I was very sad the day the cinema closed; I was a regular user, as were my friends and family.

Visiting the cinema in Cardiff is so expensive, especially for families – and not just the admission price, but the refreshments and travel, too.

Well done to Vale Assembly Member Jane Hutt, who recently presented a petition to the Welsh Assembly's petition committee.

She has been working with the 'Save Our Cinema Association' since the cinema closed in 2007.

Barry is one of the largest towns in Wales and to say that we no longer have a cinema seems ridiculous.

I am also very concerned at the potential plan to locate a 42-unit care facility on the site, not just because we would lose the cinema forever, but because this area of Barry is already very congested.

I do not believe it is a suitable location for an extra care residential scheme.

Good luck to the Save our Cinema Association and I promise my support in efforts to secure a cinema for Barry.

Claire Curtis
(Labour candidate for the Barry Town Council by-election in Dyfan ward)

Litter-pick needed

SINCE the snowfall in December mercifully hid litter from view, surely it is now time for the council to redouble its efforts to clear our hedgerows, lanes and verges of the debris now uncovered.

Everywhere you look is in need of a litter-pick and the council must have saved at least a month's worth of time, money and effort during the wintry weather. So far this year, I have not seen anyone working on this problem.

Mrs ML Healey, Barry.

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HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 20)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
13 Thur	11.47	7.7		
14 Fri	00.23	7.5	13.03	7.4
15 Sat	01.36	7.4	14.24	7.4
16 Sun	02.57	7.6	15.30	7.8
17 Mon	04.07	8.1	16.28	8.4
18 Tues	05.01	8.7	17.27	8.9
19 Wed	05.48	9.3	18.12	9.4
20 Thur	06.32	9.8	19.02	9.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Llandough couple get a dream 'white' wedding – QUITE LITERALLY!

ABOVE:
The bride and groom.

Mary, Shirley and Richard Connelly.

ABOVE: Clearing the snow in front of the church.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

After the service, the wedding car had cancelled at the last minute, so more 4x4s were mobilised. There was time for a quick photo of the bridal couple in the lane, before they travelled to the reception in the back of the photographer's car.

Meanwhile, a local volunteer, Guy Jones, took the Vicar and organist back home.

Richard Connelly said; "A large contingent of Shirley's uncles, aunts and cousins had travelled from South Africa and had never seen snow before. What a ball we had!"

"The Court Colman Manor had been booked for the reception and all rooms were taken by wedding guests for the night.

"In the snow, the venue was spectacular and despite the difficult conditions, the staff there worked hard to make the reception and the whole weekend an event to remember."

After such an unexpected turn of events, you might think that the bride and groom could set off to sunnier climes for their honeymoon.

But no. They headed off to Switzerland!

However, the couple see plenty of fresh air, sunshine, and the deep blue sea out in Western Australia. They met at Southampton University, where Shirley gained a degree as a marine biologist, and Nick qualified as a coastal engineer!

YSTRADOWEN WI NEWS

The Leeke family history recalled

PRESIDENT Mrs Jan Foyle informed members that sadly since they last met, two members had died.

Remembering Mrs Judith Ricketts and Mrs Janet Legg, a minute's silence was observed.

They were two loyal members who will be sadly missed.

Speakers for the evening, Victoria Leeke and Stuart Price, kept members engrossed with anecdotes and pictures on the book 'An Ironmonger's Tale', written by the late Mr David Leeke.

He felt very strongly about putting in print the history of the Leeke family.

The business we see today was started by his great grandfather James, born in Hereford where he completed his apprenticeship as a blacksmith.

Like many seeking work, he came to south Wales when the coal industry was booming. He married and set up home in Tonypandy.

His skills were much in demand, as miners needed a blacksmith to sharpen their tools.

He set up his first shop in the front room of his house – a different scenario from what we see today.

The next meeting is on February 2 at 7.45pm in the Village Hall.

New members and visitors always welcome.

ACRYLICS DEMO AT SOCIETY

TODAY, JANUARY 13 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, Arnold Lowry will give a demonstration using acrylics, to Cowbridge Art Society.

Next Thursday, January 20, at 7pm in the Old Hall, Brian Shambles , local artist, will be returning to give a demonstration on watercolours.

As always, non-members are very welcome to attend.

Town houses are still on the cards at local British Legion site

ABOVE:
The disused buildings that once housed the Royal British Legion Club in Cowbridge.

SHARP-EYED Cowbridge residents may have noticed that last week's Vale Council planning committee meeting discussed the future of the former Royal British Legion Club.

It was revealed that the proposed development on the site, adjacent to the town hall car park, has passed its building regulation application.

Planning permission was given in 2008, but the building regulation approval (for eight two-bedroom terraced town houses) has now been rubber stamped.

However, work is not due to start in the near future.

The GEM spoke to the owner, Mr Nigel England, who said that nothing was planned this year, and that work could begin in around 12 months.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

CLUB IS BACK!

YOUNG At Heart Club members resumed their weekly meetings on January 6, with many stories being told of how the wintry conditions had affected them.

A few had been unable to leave their homes for several days. Club chairman Arthur Thomas welcomed one new member.

CARDS RECYCLED

LLANGAN Primary School has a Christmas card recycling scheme – and anyone in the community, whether they have children at the school or not, can take their old cards to be recycled.

Congratulations to the Llangan school caretaker, who during the extreme weather conditions, before and following the closure of the school for the Christmas holiday, attended to check if everything was all right each evening.

Former Lord Lieutenant dies at 95

People of Vale remember 'a woman of firsts'

by TIM CHAPMAN

'A woman of firsts' who distinguished herself in a number of areas of Welsh and Vale life – that is one of the ways that Susan E Williams, who was born in Llantwit Major in 1915, will be remembered.

Mrs Williams, who was born at The Ham in Llantwit on August 17, 1915, died on January 7 at the age of 95 at a hospital in Surrey.

She lived in Bonvilston for many years, then at Llanrumney Hall, and moved to Welsh St Donats with her husband, Charles Crofts Llewellyn Williams in 1950 – he died two years later.

Her nephew, Mr Rhydian Llewellyn, told The GEM: "She was a woman of firsts – a remarkable woman with a strong personality.

"In 2001 she had a serious stroke and was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital. They thought that she wouldn't talk or walk again, but they didn't know her."

Mrs Williams recovered and lived for another decade!

Among the many notable firsts in her life was becoming the first woman High Sheriff of Glamorgan.

Mrs Williams was the great grand daughter of Charles Croft Williams, who was the Mayor of Cardiff four times and the first chairman of the Cardiff Gas, Light and Coke Company. A bust of her great grandfather is displayed in City Hall.

During the war, Mrs Williams served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, retiring as a Wing Officer.

After the war, she distinguished herself with service to Welsh life. In 1958, she was awarded an MBE for helping with the Cardiff Empire and Commonwealth Games when she was in charge of all the women athletes.

She also made a huge contribution to life in the Vale. In 1961, she began serving as a JP; in 1968, she became the High Sheriff of Glamorgan; from 1973 to 1981, she was Deputy Lieutenant, and she was the first woman to be appointed County Lieutenant in Wales in 1981.

ABOVE:
Mrs Susan E Williams greeting Diana, the Princess of Wales.

She became Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan in December 1985, following the retirement of Sir Cennydd Traherne.

Mrs Williams also served as president of the Glamorgan Council for the Order of St John and president of the Royal Bath and Wells Show.

A keen horsewoman, she used to ride with the Glamorgan Hunt and her father, Mr R H Williams, was master of the hunt for 20 years. She was also the first woman steward at Chepstow Racecourse.

Mrs Williams and Johnny Clay, the former Glamorgan and England cricketer, jointly owned Charlie H, which in front of the one of the biggest crowds in years, won the 1972 Welsh Grand National. Charlie H came in two-and-a-half lengths clear of Fair Vulgan.

Mrs Williams had horses in training with Bob Turnell for more than 25 years, perhaps the best of them being Tree Tangle.

A service of thanksgiving will be held at Holy Cross Church on Friday, February 11 at 3pm.

NCT charity sale

THE NCT Vale and Valleys branch will hold a nearly new sale at Cowbridge Leisure Centre, The Broadshoard, Cowbridge, on Saturday, March 5 at 2pm-3.30pm.

Entrance: suggested donation £1/family. Baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment (eg prams) and maternity wear. Sellers contact Julie on 01656 662564 to pre-register by March 2, or email nctnearlynewsales@live.co.uk for full details.

Donations, cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received. Non-members are welcome to buy and sell. Helpers required.

Proceeds in aid of The National Childbirth Trust Vale and Valleys branch (formerly Bridgend, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major branch), to help train two breastfeeding counsellors and two antenatal teachers.

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COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE STUDENTS SHOW OFF THEIR SKILLS....

Pupils make great progress on the ski slopes

THE year-8 ski course was held the week before Christmas, instead of its usual time in January.

Two coaches from Thomas of Rhondda transported 89 pupils and 10 staff to the resort of Hasliberg-Meiringen in Switzerland. Making good time despite the weather conditions in France, the party arrived mid afternoon at their hotel on the lake in Brienz.

Accommodation and food at the family-run Hotel Brienzerburli was excellent ,with plenty to eat!

After supper on the first night, ski fitting filled the rest of the evening, before an early night was required by all staff and pupils. With plenty of snow in the valley, the ski groups looked forward to their climb up the mountain, first by cable car and then by gondola to the Bidimi station, where the ski school was based.

Groups one-four, all previous skiers, met with their ski guides Tim, Rhodri, Charlotte and Lee, who have worked with the school several times over the years.

Beginners groups 5-8 met their Swiss ski instructors Angelica, Magdalina, Helenna and Bernhard. In the afternoon, all groups swapped instructors, to have a full programme of five hours tuition.

The resort was very quiet, which gave our pupils plenty of room on the slopes and no queues waiting for the lifts. All groups made tremendous progress throughout the week.

On the fourth day, the intermediate skiers plus group five (beginners) had a giant slalom course set up over 20 gates. This proved exciting for all groups as all skiers were given vest numbers so they all looked very professional!

Group one proved they were up for the challenge and scored excellent times overall: 1st, Jonathan Harvey 27.77 secs; 2nd, Ben Jones 27.78 secs; 3rd, Huw Bennett 28.00 secs and Ben Kennedy-Thomas 28.00 secs.

Group two: 1st, Joshua Brace 31.59 secs; 2nd, Scott Thomas 32.03 secs; 3rd, Tom Roberts 33.00 secs.

Group three: 1st, Kristian Jones 33.00 secs; 2nd, Liam Sloan 34.50 secs; 3rd, Hannah Lister-Sims 36.63 secs.

Group four: 1st, Robert David 35.47 secs; 2nd, Adam Jones 37.44 secs; 3rd, Rebecca Thomas 37.50 secs.

Group five: 1st, Tatum Bolt 36.50 secs; 2nd, Scott Palmer 37.56 secs; 3rd, Brooke Langton-Cryer 39.03 secs.

On the fifth day, the beginners had a slalom course set up for them. This was only for those who had not been on snow before, with 12 gates.

Group eight: 1st, Patsy Marsden 26.41 secs; 2nd, Warren Ryland 27.77 secs; 3rd, Nicholas Rees 29.50 secs.

Group seven: 1st, Toby Walker 24.95 secs; 2nd, David Humphreys 25.85 secs; 3rd, Ellie Medlicott 26.28 secs.

Group six: 1st, Daniel Oddy 24.09 secs; 2nd, Rian Thomas 25.15 secs; 3rd, Megan Boseley 26.32 secs.

Group five: 1st, Tom Trotman 24.02 secs; 2nd, Scott Palmer 24.64 secs; 3rd, Tatum Bolt 24.70 secs.

Activities were held each evening after supper. On Sunday evening, the owner of the hotel, Pter Huggler, took the group to the local schools sports hall which had been completed in the summer at a cost of £5 million. In this magnificent sports hall pupils chose to play a variety of sports.

The following evening we returned to another part of the school, where a disco had been organised in the underground basement with flashing lights and all the works! A games room was attached with table football, poll, darts etc.

On Tuesday evening, we journeyed to Interlaken, to the 10-pin-bowling club,, where all had an excellent evening.

The next evening, a quiz was organised by Mr Gareth Evans and Mr Paul Monger where each ski group competed with each other. Mrs Eynon's group two were the winners.

All the skiers received certificates for their efforts during the week.

There were group awards for the following:

Group one: Jonathan Harvey, winner of the slalom.

Group two: Louis Phillips, most improved.

Group three: Edward Couzens, best skier.

Group four: Evie Williams, hard working most improved.

Group five: Jack Anderson, best skier.

Group six: Nathan Robson, most improved.

Group seven: Toby Walker, best skier.

Group eight: Courtney Rogers, hard working most improved.

The Pitman Trophy for the best skier went to Ben Kennedy Thomas.

The Overall Beginners Slalom result: Boys – 1st, Tom Trotman 24.02 secs; 2nd, Daniel Oddy 24.09 secs; 3rd, Scott Palmer 24.64 secs.

Girls – 1st, Tatum Bolt 24.70 secs; 2nd, Brooke Langton-Cryer 26.27 secs; 3rd, Ellie Medlicott 26.28 secs.

A special award was given to Eleanor Bishop for the misfortune of being injured at the start of the week. She showed tremendous courage after receiving key-hole surgery to her knee but this did not deter her from joining the group each day up the mountain. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Many thanks go to the following people: to the staff who accompanied the group, especially as it was the week before Christmas: all the staff at the hotel who gave us a very warm welcome and nothing was too much trouble; the instructors who worked tirelessly all week with our groups who made tremendous progress; the coach company and their drivers for transporting us safely to and from Switzerland in some awful weather conditions; Mr John Kerley of Ski Valais for all his guidance and help during the week – he has been involved with the school ski groups for more than 10 years, long may it continue.

Last, but not least, the pupils whose behaviour was outstanding and for organising themselves ready for skiing every day.

Group one on the slopes.

HAPPY DAYS!

Group five.

Group six.

Group seven.

Group eight.

Group four.

Group two.

Gymnasts make strong showing

THE school's under-12 boys gymnastics novice team competed in the recent Welsh Schools Novice Championships at the Welsh Institute of Sport, Sophia Gardens Cardiff.

The team had qualified from the county finals. Due to illness and injuries, enforced changes were made and this gave an opportunity for Tom Bailey and Luke Johanson-Brown to compete in their first-ever competition.

The team improved on the team score from the county championships but missed out on a podium finish by 0.6 marks to finish fourth.

Well done to all the boys who took part. Their scores were: Charlie Martin – 33.1 points; Luke Johanson-Brown – 33.1; Dan Shaw – 32.5; Tom Bailey – 32.5.

Team Score 100.9 points. Winning score: Brynteg Comprehensive 103.1 points.

Pupils try a new sport

IN recent weeks, year-7 pupils have been travelling to the Vale Hotel for free squash lessons courtesy of Squash Wales.

All pupils received gifts, certificates and membership for their hard work and hope they will now continue with the sport outside school.

Many thanks to Chris Rees and the hard working coaches for their time and effort. Thanks also to the Vale Hotel for allowing Squash Wales to use their facilities. The school look forward to another opportunity like this in the future.

PETERSTON SUPER ELY PUPILS LEARN ALL ABOUT EUROPEAN CULTURES AND VALUES

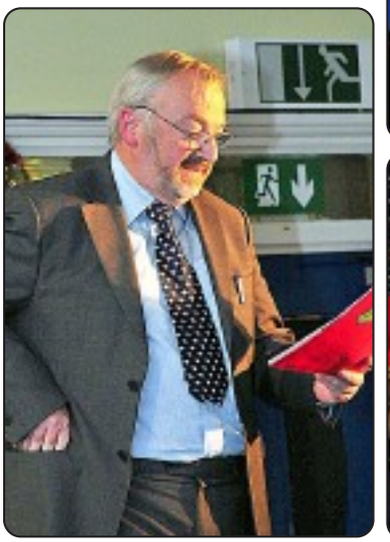
PHOTOGRAPHS
by **IAN DIXON**

IN December, Peterston Primary School hosted eight teachers from four European states – Finland, Norway, Hungary and Spain.

This marked the start of a process which will involve the pupils in exchanging ideas, and experiencing other European cultures and values.

The week ended with a farewell evening, attended by the deputy mayor of the Vale and representatives of the local education authority.

Entertainment was provided by the school choir and Cor Meibon Y Mechllid from the Rhondda Valley.



£750 bank boost gives double cause for a celebration!

ABOVE: Celebrating a cash windfall for the school/

YSGOL Gyfun Bro Morgannwg is currently celebrating its 10th anniversary and as part of the festivities, a concert was held at the Memorial Hall in Barry last month showcasing the talent of pupils, both past and present.

Parent Claire Curtis organised a raffle, which her employers Barclays agreed to match £ for £ up to £750. Chair of the PTA 'Cryf' Linda Jones said: "I am thrilled to say that the raffle at the concert raised £780 and would like to thank Barclays Bank for agreeing to match the funds raised which will go towards improving the facilities for pupils at the school.

Claire said: "The concert was a wonderful example of the talent that we have here in the Vale and the school should be very proud of its pupils and teachers."

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Churches unite to launch two new celebrations

'CAROLS in the Castle' and 'Celebrating the Childhood of Jesus' were two new festive celebrations inaugurated recently by Churches Together in Cowbridge and District.

Both events were successful and proved very popular. The evening of December 22 saw 'Carols in the Castle' when about 30 people met at the Cowbridge cattle market ready to process to the castle.

The first carol singing stop was at Southways residential home.

Wendy Grant, deputy officer in charge at the home said: "The residents thoroughly enjoyed the singing. It was a real treat, especially as some other events had been cancelled in the home because of the snow."

The carol singers then processed to St Quentin's Castle, by way of Constitution Hill and Love Lane, where a short carol service with readings was held by lantern light and brass musical accompaniment.

The evening ended with people enjoying hot mulled apple juice. Grateful thanks go to The Manor House, St Hilary for use of the lanterns and CADW for the use of the castle room.

On December 29 a meditative service celebrating the childhood of Christ was held at St Cadoc's Church.

The bi-lingual service (in Welsh and English) featured carols, readings and reflections.

There was plenty of music, with contributions from St Hilary Choir, Meibion y Machlud Male Voice Choir and the Whelan family singers.

It is hoped that more people will enjoy 'Carols in the Castle' and the meditative service, as part of the Cowbridge and district festive celebrations in future years.

The next upcoming event to be held by Churches Together in Cowbridge and District is an evening talk on ethics by Dr Idris Baker on January 24 at United Free Church Hall, 7.30pm.

KATE HIBBERT

Vale AM calls for Ogmore vote to be made official

by PHILIP IRWIN

ABOVE: Ogmore resident Len Williams with the Vale AM, Jane Hutt.

A ROW is still simmering after a Vale Council planning committee meeting where councillors voted to turn down a scheme to build houses at Ogmore-by-Sea.

At the December meeting, an application by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to build houses on the now-disused Ogmore Centre Trust was turned down by members – but that refusal was not recorded in the minutes.

The Vale Council planning chief, Rob Thomas, said that while members voted against approval of the application, which was being recommended by officers, the matter was deferred, to enable members to further consider the application – and to come up with suggestions about why it should be refused.

Mr Thomas said that it would be deferred until February's planning committee meeting.

Now, Vale AM Jane Hutt has entered the debate. She said: "I have already raised this matter with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Public Services Ombudsman.

"I have had a large number of representations from constituents who attended the planning meeting on December 16 and witnessed a vote taking place, with a clear majority voting against the housing development to replace the Ogmore Centre."

She continued: "This vote should have been recorded in the minutes and I was extremely disturbed to hear that this was not rectified on January 6 at the planning committee.

"I have supported the local community council and residents in their valid objections to the development, and these were backed by the majority of councillors on the committee."

A Vale Council spokeswoman responded: "It is inaccurate to suggest that any request to amend the minutes of the December meeting was refused. The only matter to be considered by the members in the committee meeting on January 6 was to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting in December.

"Following consideration of representations made by members and the council's officers, the minutes of the December meeting were unanimously approved.

"It is likely that this matter will be reported back to Planning Committee on February 3, when further consideration will be given to this application.

Vale MP's advice surgeries

VALE MP Alun Cairns will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance on Friday, January 14at the following locations:

1.30pm–3pm at Highlight Park Community Centre, Stirling Road, Barry; 4pm–5.30pm at the Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road, Rhoose.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but surgeries are very busy, and it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

The 'Yes' campaign launched

THE Vale of Glamorgan 'Yes' campaign was formally launched on Saturday in Barry with campaigners from across the political spectrum coming together, hoping to secure the referendum vote for full law-making powers for the Welsh Assembly on March 3.

Local AMs Jane Hutt and Chris Franks were among those who supported the launch, and spoke to local people about the importance of a Yes vote for Wales.

Castle supper dance raises £7,600 for RNLI

THE annual Christmas supper dance held at St. Donat's Castle in aid of the RNLI raised a magnificent sum of over £7,600.

The Llantwit Major Ladies' Guild who organised the event, worked hard to make the evening a success, ably supported by their husbands on bar duty, and by Atlantic College kitchen staff.

The evening followed the usual format of 3-course meal and dancing led by 'Vegas', whose keyboard player, Keith, was also recruited to play for the traditional carol singing.

Said spokeswoman Linda Clarke:

"Thanks are due to all those who supported the evening: Atlantic College for kind permission to use the premises,

"Also all those businesses and individuals who donated raffle prizes.

"Last, but not least, the 200-plus loyal patrons, for whom this heralds the start of the festive season" .

Roadworks report

Pontypridd Street - junction with Mount Pleasant, Barry – footway restriction in place.
Colcot Road, between Winston Road and Whitewell Road, Barry – temporary traffic control.

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VALE PACT MEETINGS

COURT PACT, the Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, Barry, January 13 at 7.30pm;
GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Communities First Office, Aberaeron Close, Barry, January 14, at 10am;
DYFAN PACT, Barry Comprehensive School, Port Road Barry, January 31at 6pm;
CASTLELAND PACT, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, January 31 at 7pm;
BARUC PACT, Barry Island Community Centre, Friars Road, Barry Island, January 31, at 7.15pm;
ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry, February 1, at 7pm;
COWBRIDGE PACT, Fire Station, Druids Green, January 17, at 7pm;
WENVOE Community Council meeting, Wenvoe Community Hall, 18 January, at 7.30pm;
RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre (in the small room) on January 20 at 7pm.

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Closing date for receipt of completed tenders documents is 12 noon, Friday 18 February 2011.

Contact: Siân Cornwell-Shaw,
Estates Section,
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Civic Offices, Holton Road,
Barry CF63 4RU.
Tel: 01446 709756

Email: scornwell-shaw@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

LOCAL INSTRUCTOR: 'IT'S A REAL PAIN'

Learner drivers in Vale now face nine-week wait at the Cardiff test centre

by TIM CHAPMAN

WAITING times for driving tests in Cardiff have increased by 50 per cent – in the wake of the closure of the Barry Test Centre, according to information obtained by an Assembly Member.

The waiting times at Cardiff's Fairwater centre rose from six weeks at the end of November 2008 and December 2009 to nine weeks at the end of November 2010.

The Barry Test Centre closed in March last year, despite local protests, and regional Assembly Member Chris Franks used the Freedom of Information Act to find out from the Driving Standards Agency the most recent waiting times at the Fairwater complex in Cardiff.

He said: "The closure of the Barry Test Centre has been shown not only to affect people in Barry and the rest of the Vale, but those living in Cardiff. The Driving Standards Agency said quite clearly in December 2009 that it had the spare capacity to absorb the diversion of demand from Barry, without compromising waiting service targets.

"Clearly, they have been found out and the results of my Freedom of Information request show the DSA need to look again at having a presence in Barry, particularly as it is the largest town in Wales.

"With VAT and tax on petrol rising even further, this closure decision will add even more costs for learner drivers, as well as driving instructors.

"Plaid imagine that people living in Cardiff also won't be best pleased having to wait longer for tests."

Mr Franks added: "Tory MP Alan Cairns failed to ensure that the decision to shut the Barry centre was reversed. It shows he has not got influence in Westminster."

Plaid's Assembly candidate for the Vale, Dr Ian Johnson, added: "There has been a trend, first under the Labour UK Government and now under the Conservatives, that has seen facilities in Barry close, with Vale people expected to go to either Cardiff or Bridgend.

"Recently, we've had the police cells moved to Cardiff, the driving test centre moved to Cardiff and the decision to close the magistrates' court .

"These figures show that Cardiff does not have the capacity to take on the additional work from Barry, leading to higher waiting times for driving tests; as well as the massive inconvenience and extra cost for learners from the Vale having to travel to Fairwater to get used to the roads on which they'll be tested.

"With the rate of loss of facilities, Barry is in danger of becoming a ghost town."

Local driving instructor Jim Stokes said that the switch to Cardiff had become "a real pain".

He explained: "The waiting period in Barry used to be three to four weeks – now it has more than doubled."

The MP for the Vale Alun Cairns said the decision by the last government to close the driving test centre in Barry was wrong, and that he had expressed this opinion before being elected as MP for the Vale in May 2010.

Mr Cairns said he would be raising the issue of the long waiting times with the transport Minister.

He explained: "I wholly opposed the closure at the time, and regret the decision taken by the last government in 2009.

"The prospect of reversing that decision could have been more expensive, particularly when public finances are tighter than at any time in living memory.

"The recent data about the long waiting times for driving tests in Cardiff, only underline the arguments presented by me, the test centre users and others in the community who opposed the closure at the time.

"I will be raising the matter with the transport Minister, as action is needed to reduce waiting times for the people of Barry and the Vale."

The DSA argues that alternative test centres in Cardiff and Bridgend are within the "20-mile travel distance criterion" for people in the Vale.

Metal thieves are taking their lives in their hands

by TIM CHAPMAN

THIEVES in the Vale are taking their lives in their hands – in pursuit of valuable metals.

Last week, two more instances came to light in which people took risks with their personal safety.

On Tuesday evening, January 4 10,000 homes in Penarth were cut off for an hour.

Engineers worked quickly to restore the power and at first were puzzled by what had caused the disruption to local homes.

But within a day Western Power Distribution had discovered that the power cut had been triggered by something other than a fault.

A spokeswoman explained "The cut was due to vandalism caused by metal theft. We have been experiencing these problems for the last year.

"The people responsible have caused a lot of damage and what they are doing is very dangerous.

"They caused a lot of disruption for people in Penarth.

"If anyone sees a person tampering with our apparatus or equipment we would ask them to contact the police or call our freephone line on 0800 052 04 00."

Last week, Holm View Leisure Centre found that it, too, had been targeted – this time by people stealing lead from the roof.

Karl Jones, the manager, told The GEM that after a leak had sprung in an office, the workmen who were called in had pointed out that lead had been taken from the roof.

Dave Knevett, the operational manager for leisure and tourism at the Vale Council, said:

"Lead was stolen from the roof at Holm View during the Christmas period.

"Plans are advanced to install a new CCTV system at this site, to prevent such incidents in the future."

Bridge

PATSIE says that as she has been learning to play Bridge for a while, she would be interested to know if there are any players who would be interested in forming a club in Llancarfan.

If you would like to e-mail her at *samsmith.1@btinternet.com*, maybe something could be put together.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

Condolences

I am very sad to announce the death of Squadron Leader Paul Gray, who was for many years a churchwarden at Saint Cadoc's.

His funeral will be on Friday January 28 at 10.15am in Saint Cadoc's church, Llancarfan.

STARGAZERS LOOK TO THE SKIES AS THE VALE RECORDS NEW YEAR FIRST!

AS a tie-in with the Stargazing Live series on BBC2, the first public event of the new year was held at Cardiff Astronomical Society's observatory on Saturday night.

The skies were clear and with low light pollution at Dyffryn Gardens people were able to look through a range of telescopes at many celestial wonders.

About 500 people attended and the early birds were treated to a good view of the International Space Station as it passed between Jupiter and a crescent Moon.

Help was on hand to give beginners a naked eye tour around the night sky and instruction on how to find such constellations such as the Plough, Orion, Taurus, Gemini, Perseus and Cassiopia.

Through the telescopes, the public were treated to excellent views of the Andromeda Galaxy; the M42 nebula in Orion; details of some of the Moon's craters and the amazing gas giant planet Jupiter with four of its Moons looking like a minature solar system.

When they had viewed the sky, they were then able to attend talks aimed at the beginner and watch a show of some stunning images taken by Society members.

ABOVE: A large number of keen astronomers attended the event to take advantage of the clean night skies over Dyffryn Gardens.

PHOTOGRAPHS by PAUL JONES
For more pictures, go to: **www.valeevents.co.uk**

CAOS looks to the future!

Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society started 2010 not knowing whether they would have enough children to perform Annie, their chosen musical for that year.

It ended with it having been such a success that they have now formed their own youth group who call themselves TOTAL CAOS.

The group, which made a tentative debut at the Llantwit Major Christmas Lights Festival, has at its core those youngsters who performed so brilliantly in Annie but has already succeeded in attracting new members and is looking for more members aged between 8 and 16.

Contact the secretary Linda Coates on 07967 401693, or linda.coates02@yahoo.co.uk. Meetings will take place on Mondays from 5pm – 6.30pm at Wick Village Hall.

'DREADFUL OFFENCES' – SAYS JUDGE

Care home duo escape jail term

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

TWO employees who worked in a South Glamorgan care home who ridiculed, frightened and distressed two elderly, vulnerable residents have walked free from Cardiff Crown Court after being given suspended sentences, for what Judge Philip Richards described as "dreadful offences".

At a hearing last month, and following an eight-day trial, Eleni Saunders (22) of Wenvoe, and Helen Males (34) of Barry, were found guilty by majority verdicts of two charges of ill-treating or neglecting persons without mental capacity at the Old Rectory Care Home, Wenvoe.

The victims, the court heard, were aged 89 and 87, the last one of whom has since died.

Males, who, said the judge, had been the more responsible and "should have known better" was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 250 hours unpaid work.

Saunders, said the judge, willingly subscribed to what was happening and thought it was "all great fun".

She received 38 weeks imprisonment, suspended for two years and was ordered to carry out 200 hours unpaid work.

Each was subject to a 24-week curfew between 8pm and 8am involving electronic tagging and to be subject to a supervision order for two years.

They were also debarred indefinitely from caring for elderly, vulnerable people and their names, said the judge, would be listed by the safeguarding authority.

He told the pair, who cried throughout the hearing, "I have to sentence each of you for offences which were quite dreadful.

"You were employed to look after people in the last years of their lives. You were employed to care for them, to provide for them, to ensure they were safe."

Instead, he said, they ridiculed them, frightened them, and caused them great distress.

They were not isolated occasions, said the judge, but took place repeatedly.

He added: "You may wish to reflect. How would it be if someone close to you was in a home and was being treated in the way you chose to treat those two?

"You might think about your position when you are old. Is this how you would wish to be treated, as you decided to treat those elderly people?"

Each of the defendants, said the judge, had suffered the loss of their jobs, indignity and publicity, and a restriction of future job prospects.

He said that he was satisfied it was a case, which could only be punished by a custodial sentence. But immediate imprisonment would involve "unnecessary cruelty".

Prosecutor Leighton Hughes said the pair found it amusing to ill-treat the ladies, who they knew lacked mental capacity and were easy targets.

Matters came to light, he said, when another care assistant, Leah Jones, reported their behaviour.

One of the residents would have a rubber hand puppet. in the shape of a goblin, thrust against her face and one of the defendants would growl.

The pair laughed when the victim would try to slide down in her chair and crawl away.

Another resident would have her ears flicked and one was insulted by the pair calling her sister a drug addict and a prostitute.

Both defendants were said to have no previous convictions.

Ruth Smith, for Saunders, said she continued to maintain the stance that she didn't commit the offences.

Said the judge: "I find it very difficult to accept that protestation of innocence."

Ms Smith said Saunders had played a secondary role and was at the periphery of the offences.

"Males was her superior and should have led by example."

Ms Smith said it was accepted that the case involved a breach of trust. There was, however, a very different side to Saunders, who could be caring and loving.

"Unfortunately, her behaviour deteriorated."

Ms Smith said that she had been subjected to threats on Facebook and eyewitness hostility.

"Her picture appeared in the press, and she feared for her safety. Her family are shocked and devastated and she has had problems involving depression and self-harming."

Peter Wormold for Males said: "She has been stricken by the findings of the jury."

He said the mother of two has faced the opprobrium of the community, something which could continue for years.

He said she had worked at the home since the age of 16 and had been diligent.

"She never wants to work in such a demanding environment again. Her children are heavily dependent upon her and she is going to have to live with her shame for many years.

Youthful talent to the fore in music competition

MUSIC in the Vale comes up trumps again with an opportunity to perform at the Wales Millennium Centre for its 2010 finalists.

Young singers and instrumentalists from the area will be among those performing at lunchtime this Saturday and Sunday – January 15 and 16.

On Saturday, Lois Aled from Penarth, who won the junior singer of the year award, will be performing, along with Llinos Haf Picton Jones, also from Penarth, who was awarded most promising young singer in the Vale. Also performing will be Rhydian Jenkins from Maesteg, intermediate singer of the year.

Joseph Keenan, from Penarth was runner-up in the intermediate instrumental competition and will be playing the saxophone along with Gem Pipps, a junior finalist (violin). Jennifer Marks an intermediate finalist from Barry will be playing piano.

On Sunday, Charlie Jean Clist, from Cowbridge, winner of the senior instrumental musician of the year, will be playing the violin and Madeline Lloyd from Penarth, a junior finalist will be playing flute.

There will be eight performers on each of the two days. The Music in the Vale competition attracts young musicians from all over south Wales, including some from even further afield.

This year, they had the highest number of entries in the history of the competition and celebrated their 25th Anniversary. The standard of these finalists is just amazing.

Music in the Vale is proud to showcase the very best of the local musical talent, and to provide them with such a fantastic opportunity to further their musical education.

Admission to the concerts to be held on the Glanfa Stage at the Wales Millennium Centre is free of charge: Saturday, January 15, 1.15pm to 2.15pm; Sunday, January 16, 1.45pm to 2.45pm.

Ann Humphrey,

RSPCA warns: 'Do NOT visit Llantrisant Common'

THE RSPCA has reported a case of strangles, a highly contagious disease, in a horse at Llantrisant Common.

The people whose horses graze on the land are doing what they can to contain the airborne equine respiratory infection but people are being strongly advised to keep away from the area for the time being.

RSPCA inspector Simon Evans said: "It is common for some people to go down and look at the horses on the common, sometimes even to take horses with them.

"People are aware of the problem and are doing all they can to contain it.

"Our priority is making as many people as possible aware of the issue and the importance of keeping away.

"Although horses suffer from strangles, the disease can be carried by people, so it is extremely important that people, as well as other horses, do not visit the area."

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Library closed

Cowbridge Library re-opening has been delayed due to the adverse weather conditions. The library will now re-open at 9.30am on Monday January 24, 2011. We apologise for the inconvenience caused.

Customers are reminded that they may use the services of other libraries in the Vale.

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

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11+ Entrance Test 5th February 2011
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PENLLYN AND DISTRICT WI LEARN ABOUT A LEGEND

Speaker tells story of the incomparable Mrs Beeton

THE monthly meeting held on January 4 in Penllyn Village Hall was opened by the president, Novello Peters, who wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Members were reminded that subscriptions for the year were now due. The president reported that been presented after a long delay, and a copy was available for members to see. The next statement will be due in April.

The planned visit of members to Tredegar House, arranged for December 17, unfortunately did not take place due to snowy weather conditions.

Two members attended the group carol service in Colwinston on December 2 and read lessons. It will be Penllyn's turn this year to host the group carol service, and this has already been arranged for Wednesday, December 13.

Menus for the festive meal at The Fox in Penllyn on January 18 were circulated.

The darts team are getting together to practice for the federation darts tournament on February 19.

Craft evenings will resume on Tuesday, January 25 at 7.30pm, to plan for the Glamorgan show.

The president introduced the guest speaker, Pamela Robson, who gave a fascinating talk on the famous 'Mrs Beeton'.

She told of Isabella Beeton's short, but memorable life, and of how she came to be a household name in the realm of cookery book writing.

She showed household items and crockery, that would have been used by women at that time, and answered members' questions.

The speaker was thanked by Novello Peters.

The next meeting will be held in Penllyn Village Hall on Tuesday, February 1 at 7.30pm, when the speaker will be David Allen and the subject 'Wedding in Nepal'.

New members always warmly welcomed on the first Tuesday of the month (except August) at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

For further information contact 01656 674191 or 01656 647115.

COLWINSTON AND LLYSWORNEY WI

Group's talk on sunny climes!

THE year began with a trip to sunnier climes (but *only on film!*) with a talk on the Galapagos Islands.

Several new members were welcomed and a spring theatre trip was suggested with 'We Will Rock You' being the choice of members.

The speakers for the year will talk on the following subjects:

February 14, Royal Wales with Debbie Fisher of Colwinston; March 14, Wild Life in North India; April 11, History of The Rest Porthcawl; May 9, Resolutions (with wine); June 13, Dunraven Castle; July 11, bee keeping in Colwinston with Helen Payne; September 12, social evening (with wine); October 10, Christmas collection; November 14 AGM (with wine); December 12, dinner with wine.

Visitors and new members always welcome. 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Sunshine Club offers support

THE Sunshine Club special needs support group offers a warm welcome to any parent carer grandparent or sibling of a child with special needs, physical disability or learning difficulty in the area.

It meets each Monday at 10.30am – 12.30pm at the Western Vale Integrated Children's Centre, Station Road, Llantwit Major,

For more information, contact Kay (01446 793866) or Jill (01446795480).

Vale actors attend 'Vampire' premiere

THERE was plenty of excitement and fun when Ferris Entertainment students and actors arrived at the premiere of their film *Audition for a Vampire*.

All the students attend the Ferris Entertainment acting classes in Penarth and include three GEM/Ferris Entertainment scholarship winners.

The film was shot in August in and around Penarth, but includes scenes filmed in such eerie locations as Stratford Upon Avon and Rennes Le Chateau in France, made famous in the *Da Vinci Code*.

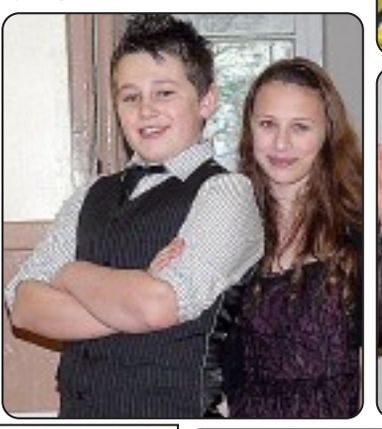
It will appear in film festivals around the world and is due for release this year.

However, what is most exciting is that the film will be seen by the Hollywood director David Lynch himself.

Peter Ferris explained: "I am very proud to be working on a project in Belfast with David Lynch, where we are erecting a building on the 'peace line' in the area that has been most affected by the 'Troubles', which will house our performing arts courses which are designed to inspire the people from the area."

"I am very proud that the film shows the incredible talent we have here in Penarth and what can be achieved when that natural talent is taught to a professional standard.

"There is no denying now that these students are very competent screen actors."



RNLI EVENING

THE Barry fundraising branch of the RNLI is holding an SOS fundraising event. Spectrum on Song – an evening of song with the Spectrum Singers on Saturday, January 29 at 7.45pm in St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road Barry.

Tickets are £10, including cheese and wine. Contact Chris on 01446 732195.

To become a volunteer fundraiser or to find out more, contact Jennie on 01446 734888 or Chris on 01446 732195.

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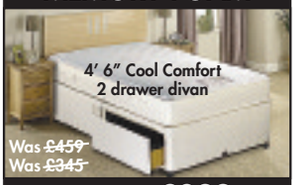

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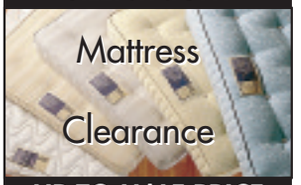

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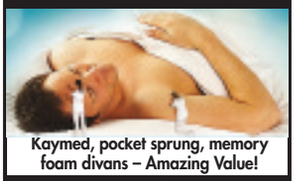

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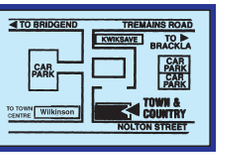

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NOTICE TO QUIT, BUT....

Town traders want Cowbridge Market to stay in business

by PHILIP IRWIN

TRADERS in Cowbridge have come out strongly on the side of keeping the cattle market in the town – at least until firm plans for a replacement use have been agreed.

At a meeting this week, the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade decided to support the efforts of Glamorgan Markets to stay beyond March 31, which is when the lease runs out.

The land is owned by the Vale Council, and the market has been given notice to quit on March 31.

However, the market operators, Herbert R Thomas and Watts and Morgan, have written to the council asking for a lease that will enable the market to continue, but with a a three-month break clause in it.

The chairman of the chamber of trade, Alun John, pointed out: "It is my understanding that the Vale Council will have to publish a development brief – and then that will need to go out to public consultation.

"Even if that brief is lying on a shelf at the Vale Council all ready to go, there could still be hold-ups during that consultation process, and it makes no sense to close the market prematurely."

He said that the chamber were very much in favour of retaining it in the short term, and everyone felt that the market had played a huge part in making Cowbridge what is was today – a historic market town.

He said: "Cowbridge is the rural hub of the Vale and, speaking personally, I would like to see the market stay."

He acknowledged that the long-term view of the chamber of trade was divided on this subject.

However, he insisted that traders did want to see the market as an option that could be considered when the public were consulted – and that could not be the case if the cattle market had been forced to quit.

Mr John said; "The market has helped Cowbridge, by making the area available for parking on non-market days.

"While we are on the subject of parking, the traders are adamant that there should be parking provision included in any new development brief."

He added that now that Newport market had closed, farmers in the area faced a choice between taking livestock to Carmarthen or Abergavenny. As a result, there was a real need for it.

He insisted; The chamber can't see a good case for refusing a short term lease for the market. the only reason I can think of is that the Vale Council is determined to sell the land no matter what.

"The lower school site looks likely to be derelict for some time. We don't want another part of Cowbridge to be left to be in the same situation."

'Yes' to embrace future challenge for Wales urged

CAMPAIGNERS from Bridgend and Ogmore who want more powers for the National Assembly, are calling for laws that only affect Wales to be made in Wales.

The local Yes for Wales campaign for Bridgend and Ogmore has generated support from all political parties and communities across the county borough, urging people to give the National Assembly a stronger voice when they vote in the referendum on March 3.

Campaigners say a Yes vote will streamline the system, so instead of asking permission from Westminster to pass laws that only apply in Wales, Assembly Members can use all their time and energy making things better for Welsh communities.

Voting Yes is about looking forward not back. A Yes vote in the referendum in March will enable our Assembly Members to ensure that laws that affect only Wales are made in Wales.

We need a Yes vote to ensure that Wales is ready to embrace the challenges of the future, a country that is able to hold its head high and act on the international stage, as it did in hosting the recent Ryder Cup.

The choice is between a more confident Wales where young people don't need to leave their communities in search of jobs, or a dependency culture where we look to others for solutions to our problems.

The local campaign is fully established and has begun canvassing. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, at 7.30pm at the Garth Senior Citizen's Hall, Bridgend Road Garth, Maesteg. Yes Campaign chairman and Welsh Rugby Union chief executive, Roger Lewis will be at the meeting.

Everyone supportive of further law making powers are welcome to attend regardless of which political party they support. For more information contact tim_tom79@hotmail.com

Tim Thomas (Local Yes for Wales coordinator and Plaid candidate for Bridgend)

Festive holiday voucher winner

ABOVE: Mr Jones receives his holiday vouchers from Chris Jones, director of Jones Dairies Ltd, Barry.

CHRISTMAS came early for Mr and Mrs Jones (no relation!) from Highlight Park, Barry.

On Christmas Eve, they were presented with a £500 Thomas Cook holiday voucher after being picked out as the winning customer in the Jones Dairies Direct Debit Prize Draw - many congratulations.

If you are interested in having your milk delivered, or paying your milk bill by direct debit, please contact Jones Dairies Ltd on 01446 734729.

Jones Dairies would like to thank their customers for their continued support and many kind letters of appreciation received for the service provided during the snow. Also a big thank you to the staff for their commitment during the same period.

£200,000 park facelift welcomed

A DECISION to spend over £200,000 on improvements to Iolo Park on Treharne Road, Barry was welcomed this week by Independent Councillor Richard Bertin.

He said he was grateful that regeneration money is being spent to provide a multi-use games area and play equipment, along with disabled access at the site.

"This is fantastic news for the local area and I would like to thank the staff who have worked hard to bring about the scheme. I look forward to it being completed in time for the summer," he added.

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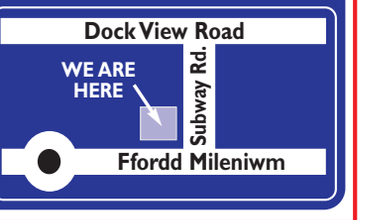

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TY HAFAN IS BENEFICIARY AS VINTAGE TRACTORS ARE TESTED IN THE VALE...

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk or www.ffotoimage.co.uk (telephone 01446 773225). Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,

ON Sunday, January 9, a vintage tractor event was held in the Vale.

It started in Arthur John's Cowbridge yard at 10.30am and was in aid of the Ty Hafan hospice at Sully. The tractor owners, who were from Bridgend, the Vale, Chepstow and Monmouth, travelled through the Vale to Llysworney and Colwinston, finishing at Llanmaes.

As Glyn Evans' photographs of the day show, the biggest challenge was going through the flooded ford at Castle-upon-Alun.

ABOVE: It looked shallower on the riverbank!

LEFT: The tractor convey are on the march.

COMPANY'S £500 WINDFALL FOR VALE SCHOOL'S GREEN PROJECT

LAFARGE Cement's Aberthaw Works and local haulier KCS Transport have boosted a biodiversity project at Rhws Primary School with a donation of £500.

They supported a charity golf day in aid of Ty Coch special needs school.

The team won another golf day, so decided to donate the money to the school's project. Led by teacher Simeon Morris, it aims to create an outside learning area for the children within the school grounds.

The first part of the project is 'Pond of Paradise' – where the school plans to regenerate its existing pond to create homes for mini-beasts and plant bushes and trees which will attract other insects.

The next phase is for a nature area and environmental art area. The school has also seen the delivery of chickens for the newly built chicken coop.

Rhws Primary School is planning to make the bio-diversity area available to other groups in the local community including nurseries, Brownies and Scouts.

MW

Deadline nears for Miss Wales competition

THE deadline is fast approaching for local beauties aiming to represent their county on the Miss Wales 2011 stage.

The closing date for applications is midnight on Monday, January 17.

The director of organisers Vibe, Paula Abbandonato, said: "We have watched so many girls grow in confidence and have fun through our regional heats that we want as many girls as possible to take advantage of this opportunity."

For the last two years, the winner of Miss Wales has come from the Vale of Glamorgan.

In 2009, the winner was Lucy Whitehouse, a nurse from Barry. The current Miss Wales, Courtenay Hamilton from St Donats, has recently returned from competing in the Miss World competition in China.

The finalists will be tasked with a series of fundraising initiatives for The Joshua Foundation – a charity that provides holidays and experiences for children with terminal cancer. The Miss Wales 2010 competition raised £60,000 and organisers are hoping that this year will be even better.

A spokesman said: "The winner of Miss Vale of Glamorgan, the two runners up and the public vote winner will qualify for the Miss Wales competition in Cardiff this summer.

"The prize package for the Miss Wales winner includes free hair styling for a year at the Hair Business in Cowbridge, a modelling contract with Vibe, five evening dresses from Dress-Stop, trips to Lapland and Australia with the Joshua Foundation, along with the chance to represent Wales in the Miss World competition.

The Miss Vale of Glamorgan event is sponsored by leading supplier of eveningwear and prom wear, www.dress-stop.com and is open to young women aged 16-24 from across the county who have never been married or had children. They must also be Welsh.

To enter visit www.misswales.co.uk.

Just passing through... Cowbridge welcomes a rather 'abnormal load'

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

ON Sunday morning (January 9) the main road through Cowbridge groaned under the astonishing weight of what the authorities quaintly call 'an abnormal load'.

In reality, the abnormal load was a giant 'deaerator vessel' and lorry weighing in at 120 tonnes – in fact there were two in convoy, the 'baby' one and its transporter tipping the scales at a mere 95 tonnes.

The deaerators were manufactured by the Bridgend company Vessco, and were heading to Barry docks for export to the Middle East. The haulage was arranged by Kings Haulage of Bristol.

Dave Salter, the production manager at Vessco, the manufacturing company in Bridgend, explained: "The biggest vessel is 22.5 metres in length, weighs 84.75 tonnes, on the outside has a diameter of 4.5 metres and is 20mm thick.

"All the items needed for manufacture were from UK suppliers and the vessels are now heading to the West Qurna oil field in Iraq.

"It has been a great effort by a highly skilled workforce."

As you can see from Glyn Evans' photographs, the load had to tip-toe rather carefully through Cowbridge.

Western Power Distribution helped during the operation in Cowbridge to make sure power lines were not damaged. Power workers extended the height of cables crossing the main road using cherry pickers. They also had to raise the cables on Primrose Hill.

The electricity was off for less than 20 minutes in the town. The disruption in Cowbridge was minimal, with the convoy making its way through in less than 15 minutes.

Leigh Lewis, the abnormal loads officer for South Wales Police, explained: "The deaerators had to go through the town because they couldn't go under bridges on the M4 or A48.

"The load could not go along the Port Road from Culverhouse Cross into Barry, and instead went along Five Mile Lane with any branches that were obstructing it being cut away by the Vale Council as it made its way along.

"At the end of Five Mile Lane the convoy turned left along Port Road, before making its way down the Docks Link Road and Cardiff Road to the docks.

"The load left Bridgend at 7.50am and arrived at the docks in Barry at 2pm.

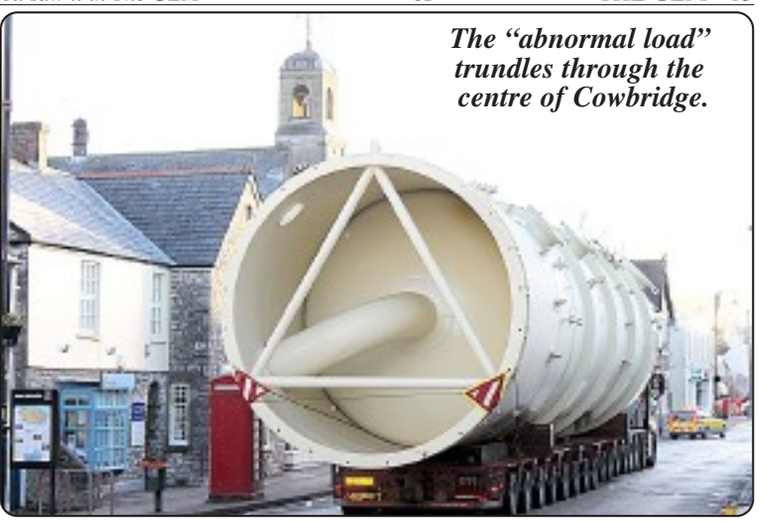
"Everyone had done their homework well and the operation went very smoothly."

Businesses in Cowbridge only knew about the load late last week.

The chairman of the Chamber of Trade, Alun John, said: "We found out on Thursday. Why didn't they let The GEM know what was happening so they could advertise it?

"My concern was that the weight of the load might cause a problem for the drains around the town hall, but I suppose engineers have checked out the route."

Which leaves just one question: ***what is a deaerator?*** *A deaerator removes air from water and then injects it into oil industry systems.*



The "abnormal load" trundles through the centre of Cowbridge.

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

ABOVE: It's a really tight squeeze as the lorries with their giant load make their way through Cowbridge.

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" Allpump has recently introduced inverter control pumps that use less electricity.

"Addressing climate change, Allpump can run heating systems on wind-operating pumps, where electricity is not an option, solar for farm dairies and heat from plate coolers.

"With the potential of the government introduction of NDZ in Wales, Allpump Services are introducing a slurry separator, which can be used in conjunction with the existing Allpump dirty water system.

"This is potentially a major growth area as legislation changes."

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Pitman training – work at a pace to suit you

ONE in three adults in the UK regrets not having got better qualifications while at school, according to research by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

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Pitman Training courses are all geared towards helping people get ahead in the world of work - building on existing skills, developing new ones and gaining in confidence.

The Pitman Training method of learning is completely flexible. Unlike traditional colleges or group-based courses, you can start learning whenever ***you're*** ready and work at the pace that suits ***you***.

Pitman Training is not just about shorthand and typing. Courses range from basic computer skills (for the completely terrified!) to advanced secretarial diplomas and accounting.

Before starting a course, every learner has a free one-to-one consultation with a learning adviser to help them decide on the best course for them.

Leanne Waring, centre manager for Pitman Training in Cardiff, said; "My own experience as a learner has shown me very clearly that we all learn differently.

"A classroom environment can be intimidating for some people. Pitman Training courses are all self-paced so that learners can choose to work at the speed that suits them.

"You can start a course at any time and learners can choose the study times that suit them best, working around their existing work or family commitments.

A tutor is always on hand to answer questions and provide support and encouragement.

"You can get on with updating or developing your skills as quickly as you want to and then use them to take your career to the next level."

For more information please contact Leanne Waring at Pitman Training, Cardiff on 02920 342020 or visit www.pitman-cardiff.com.

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Local expert Gareth is a one-of-a-kind advisor

LLANTWIT MAJOR man Gareth Tregidon has been appointed to head up south Wales accountancy firm Bevan & Buckland's financial services department.

He is the only financial advisor in Wales to hold the internationally-recognised Certified Financial Planner CM qualification, as well as being an accredited Later Life Adviser (LLAA) with the Society of Later Life Advisers.

Gareth's role will be to help clients plan their finances and prepare for their retirement, as state pensions and retirement ages get eroded even further.

He explained: "My specialisms are within investments, care fees planning, equity release and pensions. My aim is to help people who are close to or in retirement plan their finances.

"In this current economic climate, people need independent financial advice more than ever. We offer straightforward fee-based services, so you're guaranteed to receive impartial advice that's right for you."

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In Business Update

Cylch Meithrin – opportunity knocks...

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Supported by the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services through the Kick Start III Scheme

HAVE you ever wished you could speak another language? Do you hope that your children will be bilingual one day?

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In 2010, a group of parents with children under the age of four years of age got together to form a committee.

They identified the need for a Welsh programme for the pre-school children in the community.

This local committee of Welsh and non Welsh speakers will launch Cylth Meithrin, Llanilltud Fawr on January 24, 2011 at Western Vale Integrated Children's Centre, Station Road, Llantwit Major.

In the bright, colourful and spacious room at the centre, a new Welsh family will form.

Children will come from Llantwit Major and surrounding villages in the Vale to grow and develop their education and life skills under the Welsh medium.

If you would like further information or would like to discuss the opportunity for your child to attend a Welsh language nursery, please contact Emma of Cylch Meithrin, Llanilltud Fawr, on 07908 308294; or email cylchmeithrinllanilltudfawr@gmail.com.

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With competitive pricing and hard to beat quality, Immaculate Cleaning Services is a fast-growing business.

The spokeswoman pointed out: "We are also a perfect solution for busy working mums, helping to make their lives easier with the range of cleaning options that we offer.

"All staff are fully insured and Criminal Records Bureau checks can be provided if required. References are also available upon request.

"Why not call now for a free, no obligation quotation and start relaxing now? You won't regret it!

"We will also be donating a percentage of all our monthly profits to one of the many charities that we support."

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Vale Women's Business Network

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Sue Smart has been running her own consultancy since 2003 and as a colour and image specialist, delivers image workshops for major organisations, is an accomplished speaker, writer and broadcaster (BBC Radio Wales).

Join us on Wednesday January 19 at Trio; guest membership for the evening is just £6.

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NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

The bees stay active, despite cold weather

HOW well have the bees contended with the weather? The Met Office recorded the coldest December since their records began and I think most of us would agree with that.

On at least three mild days, I have seen bees active in one or two of the hives, and I am hoping to see more as the days start to lengthen and temperatures rise above freezing.

All of the hives were well provided for at the onset of winter, but it is the next few months when the bees begin to stir in earnest and consume the winter stores that will be of most concern to all beekeepers.

I do have a nucleus hive on site, which is showing much activity and that is very encouraging. The activity I speak of is not bees seeking forage of any kind, but coming out flying clear of the hive and voiding their bowels.

These cleansing flights are very necessary: if the bees fail to get out because of adverse conditions, they will perform the function in the hive and this can lead to the transfer of disease by the bees themselves as they set about cleaning their abode.

As a point of interest honeybees do not hibernate, they form a cluster (football shape) on several of the frames inside the hive, in the centre of which is the queen.

By using their flight muscles (but not flying) they produce a shivering motion, which raises their temperature and consequently that of their surroundings. Doing this and consuming the stores put by for winter should see them survive until spring.

If the beekeeper has done his/her preparations prior to winter, the bees will have received treatment for any of the various diseases that they are subject to and will have also carried out Varroa control.

These treatments will not in themselves eradicate all that is harmful to the bees, but will help them in their fight to survive.

I have not been idle over these past few months; much equipment has been refurbished and cleaned where required.

New items are being made because when the spring arrives and the bees become active they, like the tide, will not wait for you.

The apiary itself is being cleaned up and put into order; in fact, Barbara and I have laid two bases at the Dyffryn site, as they will be needed in the coming year.

These bases are paving slabs dug into the ground a little and made level. The St Fagan's site is also receiving attention.

Be prepared should be your new year resolution (beekeepers that is).

HAROLD WILLIAMS

DINAS POWYS WI NEWS

Learning about work of Bobath

THE first meeting of 2011 was held on Tuesday, January 4.

Thirty-two stalwart members braved the elements and had an enjoyable evening.

The speaker was Claire Brown from Bobath Children's Therapy Centre, Wales, which is based in Whitchurch.

The centre treats children up to the age of 18 with cerebral palsy. Each year, one child in 400 will be born with cerebral palsy, which can be caused by lack of oxygen in the womb or at birth.

Cerebral palsy is not genetic. Each child is assessed as soon after birth as possible and given a personal programme to enable him/her to develop to their maximum ability. The centre is funded by donation and fundraising events only.

Members were captivated by Claire and engaged in simple exercises to see how cerebral palsy can affect sufferers.

The monthly competition is an item from a country beginning with a different letter from the alphabet.

The letter was 'A' and the winner was Ann Fowler with a sandstone ornament from Algeria.

The raffle was won by Su Colman.

Next month, the talk will be on The Restoration of Llandaff Cathedral – a topical subject, as it is 70 years since Cardiff was bombed. All are welcome on February 1 in the Lee Hall at 7.30 pm.

BD

BRIDES & GROOMS

Expert advice so important when booking your wedding photographs

PHOTOGRAPHS by Mark Osman of Still Images

FOR most people, their wedding day is the most important of their lives – and capturing memorable images to be enjoyed in years to come is an important part in organising the big day.

Local photographer Mark Osman of Still Images says that with packages ranging from £250 to £2,500, depending on whether it is a small civil ceremony or a full church wedding with a large reception, people had to think carefully about what is right for them.

"As a photographer I always try not to be intrusive. My aim is to produce photographs that will bring back memories forever.

"I try to take the bride and groom away from the crowd for half an hour to gain some special shots on their own.

"One bit of advice I do give clients is to have a couple of meetings with the photographer and make sure they like not only his or her style of photography, but that they are the right person to be part of the big day.

"I offer a low booking fee of £50 and the remainder can then be split into three payments, the last one being after the wedding to try and spread the cost for the bride and groom

"With all my packages, I offer a pre-shoot that can have a large white mount and the guests can sign it when attending the wedding.

"I have even been ask to do one of a couple in the sea – which was fantastic."

Mark can be contacted on 01446 678099 and welcomes people into his studio for a chat about their requirements.

Eternity with Love announce 'wedding fayre' programme

ETERNITY WITH LOVE would first of all like to wish you a 'Happy New Year' and congratulate you on your forthcoming wedding!

A spokeswoman explained: "We are very excited to introduce our new spring and summer wedding fayre event programme. Our first event of the season is at The Cardiff Marriott on Sunday, January 30.

"We are also delighted to be working exclusively with House of Fraser Wedding List in Cardiff, who will be sponsoring all Eternity with Love bridal goody bags for our wedding fayres throughout 2011.

"Please visit our website *www.eternity-withlove.co.uk* for full details on our upcoming wedding fayres throughout south Wales."

***Other dates for February and March 2011 include** – St Mellons Hotel, Cardiff – Sunday, February 6, Coed-Y-Mwstwr Hotel, Coychurch – Sunday, February 20, Bear Hotel, Cowbridge – Sunday, March 20, Caerphilly Castle – Sunday, March 27.*

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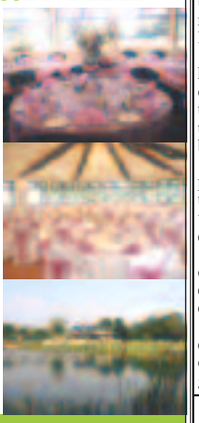

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LETTER FROM AMERICA

Need for the Vale to twin with Haiti...

I AM writing to endorse the letters you have previously received and published in The GEM from Godfrey Knight and Vincent Smith, regarding the potential of twinning the Vale or Barry with the town of Pignon in Haiti.

I am the friend whom Mr Smith references in his letter and I spent 12 weeks of 2010 working with the people of Pignon.

This letter is being sent to provide a brief glimpse into the conditions surrounding Pignon.

It is a town located in the central plateau region on the island of Haiti.

The town itself does have a political structure of mayors who attend to the typical civil issues that arise on a daily basis.

Pignon is receiving paved streets for the first time in its history, provided by the federal government.

There is also a co-operative effort being executed to provide a central water supply.

This co-operative effort is being worked out between the federal government and local non-governmental agencies. These activities are cause for great hope in the town of Pignon.

The daily living conditions are very hard. There are a few public wells located in town that provide water to the residents.

However, these wells are only opened up for public use a couple of times per week, to prevent their collapse.

During the days that the wells are locked down, the residents have to travel to the river and carry back water to their homes.

The river also serves as the place to wash clothes, water animals and bathe.

The recent outbreak of cholera demonstrates the severe lack of sanitation in Haiti.

The economic conditions are bleak at best. The current unemployment rate in Pignon is around the 75 per cent mark.

Most residents survive by trading whatever goods they can in a form of barter exchange.

The outlook for almost all residents is day-to-day survival at best. There is very little present in the way of sustainable economic activity.

Having painted a bleak picture in the above paragraphs, I would be remiss not to mention the vibrant spirit and will that the Haitian people possess.

There are smiling faces everywhere that you look, and a will to survive that is second to none.

I can't say that I see as many smiling faces walking down a street here in the US.

In conclusion, I urge you to give serious consideration to the humanitarian and cultural rewards of the proposed twinning of your area with Pignon.

Eric Krob,
Lisbon, Iowa 52253,
USA

Freeze means repairs at the Market

THE main entrance to Maesteg Market should be re-opened this week once work to repair the stonework above it commences.

The entrance down the steps was closed before Christmas after some pieces of sandstone fell from the Town Hall which occupies the building above the basement market hall.

A spokesman for BCBC, which owns the building, said that the recent extremely cold weather has caused the problem and one of the market's three entrances had been closed for safety reasons.

Specialist contractors have now been appointed to carry out repairs and the door will be back in use as soon as scaffolding has been erected above it.

Work was due to start as soon as the scaffolding is in place.

Traders inside the market complained that the closure of this entrance had deterred some shoppers from using the market and they said that footfall was down.

Harrowing tale keeps you glued to the screen

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

IF Danny Boyle was an excellent director lacking mainstream profile, then all that changed at the 2009 Academy Awards, when he picked up the best director statue for *Slumdog Millionaire*.

Since then, not only has Boyle's reputation swelled, but the director has been touted for everything, from the next James Bond outing (rumours which turned out to be false) to being the artistic director for the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games (which turned out to be true).

Having sat on the success of *Slumdog*..., Boyle only now returns to the big screen with *127 Hours*.

It tells the true story of Aron Ralston (James Franco), a climber who became trapped between boulders for five days in 2003. With his life slipping away, Ralston is forced to make some huge sacrifices in order to keep himself alive...

Much like the proverbial bus, you wait for a film set in a single location and two come along pretty much after the other, but while the Ryan Reynolds-starring *Buried* was a fictitious tale of a man trapped in a coffin in Iraq, Danny Boyle's *127 Hours*, as harrowing as it is, is anything but a work of fiction, telling the story of how Aron Ralston's adventures canyoneering ended in tragedy.

In less skilled hands, Ralston's story could have been mishandled, a film where his trapping and attempts at rescue and escape are punctuated by dramatic devices that would have made the film far less of an engaging piece.

However, fresh from *Slumdog's* Oscar success and the realisation that, yes, he is a pretty special director, Danny Boyle turns in another visually striking film that looks massively impressive.

Kicking things off with triple split screen and never letting up the pace from then on, the film is a wondrous achievement in regard to visual composition and editing, the early part of the film leading to Ralston's accident shot through with verve and panache.

Boyle's films have always bubbled with visual invention (the toilet sequence from *Trainspotting*, post-zombie London in *28 Days Later*...) and here he seems to have swapped the Capra-via-Bollywood visuals of *Slumdog*... to something more akin to David Fincher, the camera zooming through boulder crevices and water bottles.

But as visually stunning as the film is, it is when it gets to the meat of the story that what it loses in pace, it more than gains in drama and tension. Shifting from the vibrant colours and fast cuts to something more muted and languid, Boyle never paints Ralston's predicament as overtly dramatic; in fact, the character is remarkably unconcerned at his situation, seemingly viewing it more as a minor inconvenience than an endangering experience.

However, at this point Boyle and Simon Beaufoy's script changes tack, concentrating on the character as his realisation that he isn't going to escape merges with the slow-dawning realisation that he is far too much of a lone wolf, unreliant on the assistance of other people and, based on his exchanges with two fellow canyoneers (played by Kate Mara and Amber Tamblyn), far too caught up in his own world.

Using his hallucinations, caused by lack of food and water, to take you out of his predicament and into dream sequences that tap into the character's psyche, concentrating on the girl that he broke up with, his sister's wedding that he isn't going to make, and all the people who have orbited his life, Boyle and Beaufoy plot a redemption for the character that takes an almost biblical twist with the conclusion.

Ah yes, the conclusion; by now most people will have read or heard how Ralston freed himself from the boulder, and the answer is yes – it is as visceral, difficult to watch and painful as you have heard. However, it isn't shown in an exploitative way, Boyle's camera cutting (pardon the pun) in and around the actual act – though it isn't for the faint-hearted, as the sounds of the crowd who I watched the film with attested to!

Given that it is a film that rests wholly on the shoulders of its main performer, James Franco steps up to the plate and delivers a home run in a turn that is captivating, engaging and wholly believable. His real-life persona of being a seemingly care-free guy bleeds into the character, Ralston being of the '...whatever, man' kind, and while Franco cruises the early part with charm and charisma, it's when the situation unfolds that he really shows his ability, handling his transformation from barely bothered to truly concerned with aplomb and subtlety, the enormity of his precarious position being slowly unveiled by the actor.

The film does lack a sense of urgency. The playing out between Ralston getting trapped and freeing himself never feels like a race against time or a man being pushed to the edge, even when his food and water supplies are low; instead, the character just seems to be biding his time in the vain hope that help will come. While it doesn't subtract from the intentions of Boyle (giving the character a chance to 'redeem' himself), it does feel a touch odd that there isn't more of a panic in the character.

That being said, *127 Hours* is a sublime piece of work, superbly directed and incredibly well acted, and given the subject matter, rather uplifting – and, devoid of cliche, makes for a thoroughly captivating film.

VERDICT – Another success for Danny Boyle, *127 Hours* sees the director create a piece of work that is a strong telling of a harrowing true life story, yet is shot through with positivity and manages to avoid the genre types of the 'rescue' film.

With James Franco holding the fort with aplomb, this is one film that will engage from beginning to end. *Essential viewing*.

Group enjoy festival delight

PORTHCAWL NEWTON WI NEWS

THE last month has been very hectic for members, with a carol service at Gilgal Baptist Church.

The minister gave a humorous sermon, which I'm sure signified the start of Christmas for everyone. We had our Christmas party, a sumptuous buffet prepared by the committee, and one member, Betty, won the cup for gaining the most points throughout the year.

Betty is our chief 'vote of thanks giver' and poet! All the members visited the Christmas tree exhibition in All Saints.

We went to St Fagans for the winter festival, with everyone dressed warmly and carrying torches.

We tried to keep together but soon got lost and ended up meeting in the restaurant.

We meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm at Gilgal Baptist Church, Woodland Avenue. If you would like to join us contact Rosemary on 01656 783772.

CT

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Esporta winners

THE winner of our recent competition to win a month's pass to the Esporta Bridgend health club were: RE Farmer, Cowbridge; Joan Harland, Barry; R Turner, Llantwit Major and Valerie J Waline-Wills, Bridgend.

Congratulations to the winners. Look out for more great GEM competitions throughout 2011.

What are you weighting for?

A new year! Kids back in school? Time on your hands? Why not give yourself a lifestyle change, a little 'me' time?

Come along and train in our gym or free weights room, swim in our warm 25m pool, or just chill out in the jacuzzi/steam room or sauna – *the choice is yours!*

We are based in Fontygary Leisure park – so we have ample free parking – open from 8am every morning until 9pm each weekday evening, and 8am to 5pm at weekends.

The staff are very friendly, so don't worry, if you have never ventured into a gym before, we are here to help!

With NO contract to sign, it is easy to either set up a direct debit, or just pay over the counter each month – there are no hidden charges!

We also have a pay-as-you-go facility.

With each direct debit set up, we offer you a free health assessment and individual programme to help you along the way.

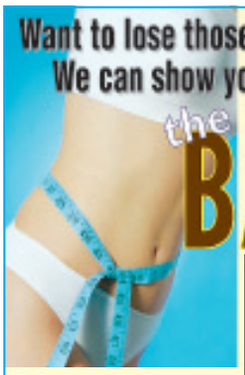
Don't just take our word for it – we are the friendly gym right on your doorstep!

Everyone over the age of 16 years is welcome and prices start from student rates of only £25 per month!

You don't have to be a member of the gym to use the pool, or to enjoy any of our facilities.

Come and see us at any time or phone Mark or Jennie on 01446 710386 for further details.

Want to lose those inches?
We can show you how



the BAY
Health and Fitness Club

It's a whole new experience – waiting for you…

at Fontygary Park

- Fully equipped gymnasium
- Separate Free weights room
- Sauna • Jacuzzi
- Steam Room
- 25m Heated Indoor Pool

For a Free Trial call Jennie now on 01446 710386

Membership from £25 per month

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Relieve stress, anxiety, depression, sleeping difficulties & Migraine.
Improve a sluggish digestive system, circulation & hormonal imbalances.
Control pain & ***Balance*** all body systems.
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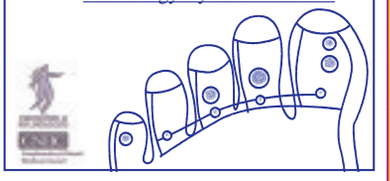
For an appointment please call **07800 978858** or e-mail reflexology@ystradowen.com



Streetstars' invite is, 'Just turn up and get dancing!'

STREETSTARS are established street dance classes based in the Vale of Glamorgan and Cornelly.

The classes range from three years old to adult, and offer fresh and exciting choreography.

Recently, some of our Streetstars dance squads have appeared on *Got To Dance* and *Britain's Got Talent,* with two of our squads the reigning British Junior Champions and British Open Champions.

Later this year, we will be touring with Akai, Twist and Pulse, Nemesis and many more.

Streetstars classes are paid weekly, with no term fees – and there is no waiting list, so you can just turn up and dance – it's as simple as that.

For more information on our classes, telephone 07974 904181, or go to our website popstars-dancestudios.co.uk

THE ULTIMATE STREET DANCE CLASSES
with the Reigning British Champions

STREET STARS

Every Sunday
St Nicholas Hall, BARRY
3pm - 4pm (3 to 5 yrs)
4pm - 5pm (6 to 10 yrs)
5pm - 6pm (11 to 17 yrs)
6pm - 7pm (Adults)

Every Friday
Town Hall, LLANTWIT MAJOR
4.30pm - 5.30pm (3 to 5 yrs)
5.30pm - 6.30pm (6 to 10 yrs)

Every Thursday **Elfed Avenue Church, Off Redlands Road, PENARTH**
5pm - 6pm (3 to 5 yrs)
6pm - 7pm (6 to 10 yrs)
7pm - 8pm (Adults)

Every Saturday **Cornelly Community Centre, NORTH CORNELLY**
10.30am - 11.30 am (3 to 5 yrs)
11.30am - 12.30 am (6 to 10 yrs)
12.30am - 1.30pm (11-17 yrs)

Weekly payments - No term fees
For further information contact:
07974 904181 or visit
www.popstarsdancestudios.co.uk

Let alternative treatments help 'revitalise' you

SARAH Renwick invites you to the opening of her new clinic, offering alternative medical treatments that can help anyone with any disorder – back pain, headaches, injuries, digestive problems and sickness.

Sarah explained: "I offer a range of solutions such as acupuncture, various medical massage techniques, shiatsu and macrobiotic eating. I am now offering various treatments that help skin conditions, such as excema and psoriasis, but that also enhance beauty and leave you feeling revitalised from the healing and therapeutic mineral treatments."

Call Sarah now on 01446 775066, to inquire about these competitive treatments, and also for a consultation to see how she can help you.

Sarah N. Renwick
M.BABTAC M.IMSS AOBTA (App.MST) NCCAOM LAc
Practitioner of Oriental Medicine

Tel. 01446 775066
sarah@sarahshealthclinic.co.uk
Unit 12, Vale Business Park, Cowbridge. CF71 7PF

Let's dance, dance, dance!

COME dancing with Steve and Lynne at their new beginners' classes in salsa, cha-cha, jive and paso doble!

The classes are held at:

Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry (behind Tesco) every Thursday starting on January 13, 8pm-9pm (intermediate 9pm-10pm).

Lower Penarth Community Centre, Brockhill Way (opposite Spar), Penarth, every Monday starting January 10, 8pm-9pm (intermediate 9pm-10pm).

Just come along and bring your friends. Former pupils are very welcome too.

Remember, it's great fun and exercise, a way to lose weight and get fit *fast*!

Please check the web for more information at www.salsachacha.com. Only £5; students £4; tel 02920 758708 or 07866 551 346.

Dance! Dance!! Dance!!!
Come dancing with Steve and Lynne at their NEW BEGINNERS CLASSES in SALSA/CHA-CHA/JIVE & PASO DOBLE at:

HIGHLIGHT PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE, BARRY, (behind Tesco's), every THURSDAY, starting JANUARY 13th between 8 - 9pm (Intermediate 9-10pm)

LOWER PENARTH COMMUNITY CENTRE, Brockhill Way, (opp Spar), PENARTH every MONDAY, starting JANUARY 10th, 8 - 9pm (Intermediate 9-10pm)

Just come along and bring your friends!!
Former pupils very welcome
Check Web for more information

www.salsachacha.com

Only £5.00 - Students £4.00

Tel 02920 758708 *or* **07866 551346**

Great fun & exercise, lose weight, get fit

Get inspired by one local family's weight loss success!

IF you've embarked on a New Year fitness drive, but are starting to be tempted back to the sofa, takeaways and biscuits, then the remarkable health improvements achieved by the Turner family from Barry are sure to inspire you to keep hitting the gym.

Husband and wife David and Keri, together with daughter-in-law Sadie, recently lost an amazing 17 stone between them, with sensible eating and exercise sessions at Barry Leisure Centre central to their success.

All were regulars in the centre's LifeStyle Health & Fitness studio, using the range of fitness equipment available including weights, treadmills, rowing machines, cross trainers and Trixter bikes, while the Easyline suite let them tackle circuit training exercises in style.

A LifeStyle membership costs from £23.50 a month and allows you to use the fitness studios, swimming pools and fitness classes at the Vale's leisure centres.

For further details about how you can achieve your fitness goals, and to learn more about the Turner family's incredible weight-loss achievements, please visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres or call 01446 403000.

We did it...
and so can you!

Find out how the Turner family, as featured on Sky 1 TV series 'Fat Families', have achieved amazing weight-loss with help from Barry Leisure Centre, and how you too can reach your fitness goals, either by calling 01446 403000 or by going online at...

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres

LIFESTYLE HEALTH & FITNESS

TRANSFORM YOURSELF FROM 'MUM-SIE' TO 'WOW-SIE'!

THE New Year is here, and you, your friends and family, should be pampering and treating yourselves after the busy hustle and bustle of Christmas.

Here at Bodywise, we have specialists in a variety of treatments which can transform you from 'work girl' to 'glam girl', or 'mum-sie' to 'wow-sie'!!

Treatments such as eyelash perming and tinting, lash flares, plus brow shaping and tinting.

Then there is the essential California airbrush tan and also Minx – a superb long-lasting trend for toes and fingers in amazing colours and patterns. All fantastic treatments to lift your spirits and boost your natural beauty during the cold winter months!

Let's not forget the men. You too can be pampered – enjoy the benefits of a sports massage or have your back and shoulders waxed for a smooth, hair-free skin. And don't forget those eyebrows – the unibrow is no longer necessary!

Other popular treatments for men include airbrush tanning, skincare treatments, manicures and pedicures.

Bodywise offers a vast range of treatments carried out by specialised therapists with a wealth of experience.

We have a specialist sports massage, a holistic therapist specialising in reflexology, aromatherapy and Indian head massage.

We also have an advanced electrolygist specialising in hair removal, red vein removal and skin tag removal.

All staff are qualified to the highest standards and have decades of experience.

Book an appointment with us and let us dedicate our expertise and knowledge to your beauty treatment.

The January special offer includes three different stress busters.

Please contact the salon for details or read details on Facebook. Gift vouchers are available which make the perfect gift for friends and family.

The benefits of owning a cat

HAVE you ever considered an older cat, instead of a kitten as a companion?

Medical research has indicated stroking a cat can relieve stress and lower blood pressure.

We have a number of cats looking for loving homes, aged from six months to eight years old.

Even a cat of eight years would have approximately another 10 years of life, which might suit a much older person and give loving companionship.

All our cats have been neutered and microchipped. Some are a little nervous as they are used to older people who might have had to give them up to go into homes themselves, leaving their companion behind. These would adapt to a quiet, loving home environment.

Currently, we have an abundance of cats who are desperately in need of a new family or people to care for them.

For an appointment or further information, please telephone Maesteg Animal Welfare Society on 01656 721496, 01656 653456 or 01656 667463. Please leave a message on our answerphone if we are not available.

If you have any donations, bric-a-brac or any unwanted items, please call our shop on 01656 738977 / 721496.

MAESTEG ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Kittens, young and older cats – All needing a new family!

All cats have been neutered & microchipped
Tel: (01656) 667463

All our work is funded by Charity Shops.
We sell bric-a-brac, books, clothes and all items of furniture.
Donations always welcome.

Tel: 01656 721496 or 01656 653456
www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk

Thanking everyone for their continued support

Your car has a regular service... but what about your body?

JUST like your car, your body runs at peak performance when it is maintained properly.

Loss of joint movement may be caused by your everyday lifestyle, through accident and injury, or just simple wear and tear which can lead to pain.

For example, you may have experienced: sporting injuries; workplace discomfort; stress and tension; poor posture; industrial injury; car accidents/whiplash; or pregnancy and childbirth.

Chiropractors specialise in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and management of conditions that are due to mechanical dysfunction of the joints and muscles which account for 95 per cent of back pain.

See Optimal Chiropractic's advertisement for the special offers.

Telephone 07402 368153.

Are you in PAIN?

Chiropractic Can Help:

Back Pain - Sciatica - Headache - Neck Pain
Dizziness - Migraine - Shoulder, Elbow, Wrist and Arm pain - Whiplash - Hip, Knee, Ankle and Leg Pain - Postural Problems - Sports Injuries

OPTIMAL CHIROPRACTIC
& Sports Massage of Cowbridge

Evening/Weekend appointments available
Flexible appointments - Fully registered
Male and Female Chiropractor Available

For appointments, information or advice call us on:
07402 368153

SPECIAL OFFER
Initial Consultation, Examination and Treatment for ONLY £25 with this advert (saving 50%)

WWW.OPTIMALCHIROPRACTIC.CO.UK

Thinking of a new career in caring?

THINKING OF A NEW CAREER?
Could you make a difference in someone's life?

Carers required in Cowbridge, Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major areas

- No experience necessary.
- Training Provided.

Why not call for a friendly chat to discover more...

angels care

***Telephone Lauren on* 01446 760010**

www.AngelsCareServices.com

ANGELS Care Services are looking for new recruits, due to their continued growth.

Our valued team of 65 carers are a very special group of people who enjoy caring for others, and helping them to lead an independent life.

Clients value the visits and friendship of our carers, most of whom worked outside the care sector before joining Angels. Many now say they've found their true calling, having discovered personal fulfilment in caring for others.

To maintain the high quality of care we provide, new carers are fully trained and then supported through the study of appropriate NVQ qualifications.

If you would be interested in joining our team, or have any questions, why not visit www.AngelsCareServices.com or call Lauren on 01446 760010.

Help to get around house

RECLINER chairs, wheelchairs, scooters, bath lifters, walking sticks, daily living aids...

Dolphin Independent Living has its range on show at its mobility showroom.

During the past nine years, Dolphin Lifts (South Wales) Ltd has gained a strong client base through reliable, friendly service and experienced engineers.

The showroom is a natural progression for Dolphin, giving the opportunity to provide the public with daily living aids, from kitchen utensils to scooters, all with the service you would expect from us.

If you have any questions, would like to receive a brochure, or to book an appointment, call our freephone number 0800 093 2293; or contact j.pearce@dolphin-lifts.co.uk

DOLPHIN
Stairlifts

All our reconditioned stairlifts now with a NO QUIBBLE 3 year guarantee

01633 223121
Mobility Showroom at Unit 10, Crawford Street, Newport
Email: info@dolphin-stairlifts.co.uk www.dolphin-stairlifts.co.uk

SkinStudio

one-stop shop for your beauty treatments

START 2011 with a body from heaven!

SkinStudio tailor-makes a course of treatments designed specifically to meet your individual requirements and needs.

With a free consultation, our therapists will design a course for you, ranging from fat reduction to facials.

SkinStudio is your one stop shop this year with a full range of beauty basic treatments at unbeatable prices.

We also provide a range of package deals; these include wedding, birthday and hen party packages.

For further information, please call 029212 50221.

Banish your dry or damaged skin

COLD weather can be very damaging to the skin, so it is important to treat it right.

With that in mind, give yourself a new year treat! Laura has more than five years' experience in knowing what the skin needs, and using that knowledge has put together some great special offers!

The Aroma Essence facial is an indulgent treatment that is tailored to either rebalance or nourish dried-out winter skin!

Are your hands feeling irritated and dry? Why not treat yourself to a mini manicure with paraffin wax; this is an intensive treatment that leaves them looking and feeling great!

Call 07785 931357 for appointments.

Laura's

Holistic & Beauty Treatments

at The Hair Studio, Llantwit Major.

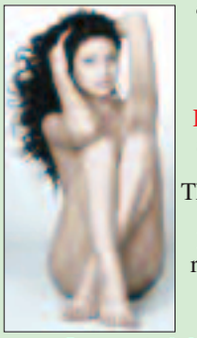
January & February Offers

Aroma Essence Facial £22
Mini Manicure with Paraffin Wax £15

Tel: 07785 931357

Skin Studio
of Penarth

Advanced Treatments, Advanced Results



'Lose 2 dress sizes in just 1 month'
at
HALF PRICE
£720 down to £360

The revolutionary i lipo is a low level laser that releases trapped fat cells from stubborn ares.

- **Lose up to 2 dress sizes.**
- **Money back guarantee.**
- **Instant loss on first visit.**
- **No need to diet.**
- **Improve skin texture and get rid of cellulite.**

Call the Skin Studio today to book your appointment.

Terms and conditions: Payment must be made in full at time of booking. Treatment must be started within 90 days of purchase. Half price offer ends 20th January 2011. More than one deal can be bought per person.

T: 02921 250 221
E: skinstudio@hotmail.co.uk
W: www.skinstudiowales.com

Health & Beauty

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Free Eye Tests at Home

Service offered in the Vale of Glamorgan and surrounding areas.

If you are unable to leave the house unaccompanied, you are entitled to an eye exam in the comfort of your own home – free of charge, providing you are over 60 years of age or in receipt of benefits.

Private patients also welcomed.

Full range of frames and lenses available.

All spectacles delivered to your home and fitted by the optometrist himself.

If you or anybody you know would benefit from this service, please feel free to contact me . . .

the eye centre

NICK MAYDEW, BSc MCOptom

07540 316 236

Ease the pain...

BRACKLA family Chiropractic Clinic has been established for more than 15 years, providing specialist treatment for musculoskeletal complaints, such as neck and back pain, headaches and sciatica.

To see if chiropractic treatment can ease your pain, call one of our friendly team on 01656 767588, or visit: brackla-chiropractic.co.uk for further information.

Receive a special new year offer of just **£15** for your initial consultation, examination and report of findings until February 15, 2011, when quoting The GEM.

FREE ADVISORY CONSULTATION

The first step to freedom from pain is a phone call

REPUTABLE, CARING, PROFESSIONAL AND WE'RE LOCAL...

- Acupuncture
- Massage Therapist
- Animal Chiropractic
- Kinesio Taping
- Male & Female Clinician Available
- Emergencies
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- Free On Site Parking

BRACKLA FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

01656 767588 or 02920 291023

10 Whitehorn Drive, Brackla, Bridgend CF31 2PQ

www.brackla-chiropractic.co.uk/www.chiropractic4animals.co.uk

- BacK Pain & Sciatica
- Neck & Arm Pain
- Headaches & Jaw Pain
- Hip & Leg Pain
- Disc Problems

Shed pounds, tone, and release stress!

JOIN Christian's fun-fuelled Zumba Fitness class this January and see the fantastic benefits for your mind and body!

Following your male instructor, you will move to hypnotic Latin-American rhythms at your own pace, while shedding the pounds, toning the body and releasing the stress.

It's been described as exercise in disguise, because the class is so much fun.

People of all ages (over 16) are welcome to turn up to any of our venues and join the party! Classes are £4 each, or £6 for two within the same week!

For more information visit: www.zumbabarry.co.uk or call 07736 929514.

IT'S EXERCISE IN DISGUISE!

ZUMBA BARRY

JOIN OUR JANUARY FITNESS CHALLENGE

AND SHAKE OFF THE CALORIES!

£4 a session or £6 for 2 in same week!

TUES: WINDSOR RD CHURCH @ 18:30 (OPPOSITE MOUNT SORREL HOTEL)

THURS: THE YMCA HUB @ 19:15 (DANCE STUDIO)

SAT: ST.JOHN'S HALL @ 12:30 (END OF DERYL ROAD)

ALL CLASSES ARE 60 MINS.

FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT

www.zumbabarry.co.uk

or call

07736929514

Lose Weight! Feel Great! ZUMBA fitness

15% Discount Offer

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Now expanded to **COWBRIDGE** one of Cardiff's premier Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Clinics

Physiotherapy • Sports Massage • Podiatry Acupuncture • Chiropody

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Friendly welcome in relaxing surroundings with professionally qualified staff

Barefoot Studio, 61-63 Eastgate, COWBRIDGE

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e: info@healthandsports.co.uk
w: www.healthandsports.co.uk
50-52 Station Road,Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5QP

Slimming World

the club with the big heart!

Find our stories at www.slimmingworld.com

Join a warm and friendly group near you today—

NEW CONSULTANT
Penarth – Wednesday
9.30am & 11.30am
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy
07894275853

NEW CONSULTANT
Penarth – Wednesday
5.00 & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy
07894275853

NEW CONSULTANT
Penarth – Monday
7.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church
Elfed Avenue
Sarah
07525852288

DAY GROUPS

THURSDAY
Barry – 10.15am
Castleland Community Centre
Belvedere Crescent
Niki
01446 740394

Cowbridge – 10.00am
The Duke of Wellington
High Street
Lina – 01656 890708

EVENING GROUPS

MONDAY
Barry – 4.30 & 6.30pm
Brynsion Hall,
Junction of Court Road & Llanover street
Lorraine
01446 407002

Rhoose – 6.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre
Celtic Way
Helen
01446 750738

TUESDAY
Barry – 5.45pm
Market Street Social Club
Upstairs Function Room
Joanne
01446 404897

Barry – 4.30pm
St. Davids Methodist Church Hall
Winston Road
Annamarie
01446 736534

Llantwit Major – 4.45 & 6:45pm
The Old School
Wine Street
Helen
01446 750738

Sully – 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki
01446 740394

WEDNESDAY
Barry – 4.45 & 6.45pm
St.Francis Millennium Centre
Park Rd, Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie
01446 736534

Barry – 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne
01446 404897

SAVE £10 plus 2 weeks FREE when you join in 10-week Courses 3 to 20 January 2011

FREE supercharged slimming guide

Cowbridge – 6:00pm
Duke of Wellington
High Street
Lina – 01656 890708

THURSDAY
Barry – 6.00pm
Highlight Park Community Centre
Barry
Annamarie
01446 736534

Dinas Powys – 6.30pm
The Cabin,
by swimming pool
Hebron Hall
Alison
01443 486220

If 5 join together pay only £5 each!

0844 897 8000

www.slimmingworld.com

Slimming World — because you're amazing

Proof that community spirit is alive and well!

ABOVE: Community spirit in full effect.

HERE'S an example of the 'older people' taking responsibility and clearing their part of Church Hill Close in Llanblethian, as highlighted in your front page article in last week's GEM.

The close is a popular choice to reside for those of a certain age but there is a fantastic sense of neighbourliness and support for each other, but especially towards the very elderly or less mobile residents.

Having a break from shovelling the snow and chipping the ice are, from left to right: Pat and Ian Drew, Mary and Ron O'Leary and Iwan Lewis.

Resident Sue Bradshaw Jones, who took the picture, got stuck in too!

CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES

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- Assessment, treatment and advice for Sports Injuries, Back, Neck and General Aches and Pains
- Registered with all major Insurance companies
- GP, consultant and self referral accepted

Tel: 01446 794166 **9a Poundfield, Llantwit Major**

Ample free parking

www.therapyworks.co.uk

COWBRIDGE AREA BRIDGE CLUBS NEWS

RECENT results are as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club (Monday, January 3)

First, Mary Moore and Diana Jones, 61.98 per cent; second, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 61.46; third, David Wright and John Raymond 60.94; fourth, Marion and David Stephenson 60.42; fifth, Joan Jenkins and Mike Best 53.91; sixth, Barrie Waite and Graham Norris 53.65.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (Tuesday, January 4)

First, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey, 68.13 per cent; second, Barbara and Colin Easterbrook 64.38; third, Mary Wallis and Myrtle Hansard 57.50; fourth, Teri Pollard and David Wright 55.63; fifth, Diana Lewis and Rita Williams 53.75; sixth, Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 53.13.

DW

barry-today.co.uk
cowbridge-today.co.uk
llantwit-major-today.co.uk
porthcawl-today.co.uk
bridgend-today.co.uk

Glamorgan GEM Websites

News, Sport, Letters, Features, What's On, Jobs, Motors....

Out and About with The GEM

The Vale joins in marking 'Holocaust Memorial Day'

HOLOCAUST Memorial Day 2011 will be commemorated by an exhibition and a film premiere in the Vale – all part of the '*Untold Stories Holocaust Memorial Day 2011 – A First National Event for Wales*'.

The Vale Council, in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government, Holocaust Memorial Trust, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre of Los Angeles, and the Memorial Hall and Theatre Barry, have worked together to develop the programme for the event.

People from across the country were invited to share their 'Untold Stories' to mark the national event for Wales.

Art Central in Barry, the Vale Council's art gallery, is hosting an exhibition of the 'Untold Stories' that were submitted, including local and national stories, poems, photography, DVDs and art works.

Young people tell of their great grandparents' and other family members' World War II experiences.

Sully resident Eileen Younghusband also recounts her experiences as a World War II V2 rocket spotter, alongside many other, moving and fascinating personal tales.

The exhibition started on January 11 and runs to February 26 (10am to 4pm), Tuesday to Saturday.

'*Winston Churchill: Walking With Destiny*' is the latest production by Moriah Films of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre of Los Angeles. The film's UK premiere has been included in Wales' national event and this will take place at the Barry Memorial Hall and Theatre on January 27 at 7.30pm.

The film focuses on Winston Churchill's years in the political wilderness, his early opposition to Hitler's rule, his support for Jews under threat by the Nazi regime, his return to government, and ascension to the Prime Minister's office in 1940.

Free tickets for the film premiere can be booked on the theatre website memorialhalltheatre.co.uk or by calling 01446 738622.

At the premiere, there will also be the chance to see the artwork 'Journey Line' by conflict and war artist Nicola Tucker, whose work has been greatly influenced by the heartbreaking tragedy and horror of the Holocaust.

Free course at enterprise centre

COURSES at the Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry, include 'Moving On', a programme that helps people gain skills and confidence for employment, further learning or volunteering.

The free course works on confidence, assertiveness and communication skills. It takes place 9.30am – 2.30pm for one day a week for six weeks.

For further information, telephone Sandra, Alyson or Bev, on 01446 733034

SOS appeal goes out to local blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service has issued an urgent appeal for blood donors of groups O Rhesus Positive, A Rhesus Positive or O Rhesus Negative.

"The recent bad weather, combined with winter colds and flu, has seriously reduced our blood stocks," explained Dr Geoff Poole, Director.

"During the snow, we had a shortfall of over 1,000 donations, which we now need to replace.

"To rebuild our stocks we need at least 600 people to come forward every day throughout January.

"We cannot meet the needs of our hospitals without the support of the people of Wales. At this difficult time, we need your support more than ever.

"Our blood stocks are at a seriously low level and we are making an urgent appeal for regular donors to make every effort to attend their next scheduled donation clinic during January.

"We are also appealing to those donors who have not donated for a while, and members of our communities who have not donated before, to come forward and make a lifesaving donation.

"To increase blood stocks the Welsh Blood Service is extending the opening times of some of its regular clinics and is also holding special blood donation clinics across Wales."

Visits www.welsh-blood.org.uk or call 0800 25 22 66 to find a session near you.

High street raffle winner

HIGH Street Traders at Barry recently announced the December winner of their monthly raffle which helps to raise money for events in High Street.

Anthony Hopkins, the chairman of High Street Traders, is pictured above, with lucky winner Mrs Morgan and Tony Gratton of Tony's Café, who sold the winning ticket.

Tony said: "I'd like to thank everyone who bought a raffle ticket throughout the year; if it wasn't for you, our events would not be possible.

"I'd also like to say a big thank you to Barry Town Council and Vale Council for our wonderful Christmas lights and event," he added.

FREE GIG BY VINYL EYES

THIS Saturday (January 15) 'The Vinyl Eyes', Barry's newest covers band, will play live at the Park Hotel, Park Crescent, Barry.

The band play a wide selection of rock covers, from old classics like the Rolling Stones, the Kinks, the Beatles and the Doors, to more modern hits from the Verve, Oasis, Kings of Leon and others.

It was formed by lead singer Ali Price, who moved to south Wales in 2008 from Bangor. Leon Hartley (on lead guitar) and Gareth Davies (on drums) from London and Carmarthen respectively, complete the line-up – along with local Barry musician Matt Blumberg (on bass and vocals).

The evening kicks off at 8pm and admission is FREE! For more information about the band, visit www.myspace.com/thevinyleyes

The GEM and Ferris Entertainment offer a unique opportunity to local performers!

Win a scholarship for acting, singing and dancing...

GEM/Ferris Entertainment Voucher
valid for
FREE MASTERCLASS
Your chance to learn from world class tutors in Screen-acting and Dance
JANUARY 15th *from* 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
***at* Stanwell Hall, Victoria Road, Penarth**
(Opposite Station Approach)
Participants must be 10 years of age or over.

ABOVE: Take this voucher along to the GEM/Ferris Entertainment free masterclass for the chance to win a term's free tuition.

FOLLOWING the great success over the last three years of the GEM/Ferris Entertainment Scholarship, two more lucky GEM readers – one male and one female – will be given the chance of a free term of tuition worth £155.

At Ferris Entertainment Performing Arts Saturday Classes the talented winners will be taught screen acting by teachers who have taught the likes of Martine McCutcheon, Louise Redknapp, Claire Sweeney, Claire Goose, Sheree Murphy and Russell Brand to name but a few!

Peter Ferris explained: "All you have to do is present your voucher from The GEM when you sign in at the free masterclass.

"You will then be given a badge to identify you to the teachers and principals of Ferris Entertainment Performing Arts.

"At the end of the masterclass two lucky GEM readers will be chosen by the teachers and awarded the scholarship.

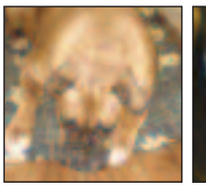
"Other participants will be offered the opportunity to enroll for the term."

The former scholarship winners have been Jemma Birkett (2008), Elliott Ismail (2009) and Verity Campbell and Jimmy Webster (2010).

Jemma, Elliott and Verity have just appeared in the film 'Audition for a Vampire' which will be previewed at film festivals in 2011..

The free masterclass will be held at the Stanwell Hall, Victoria Road next to the Padget Rooms, Penarth on Saturday January 15 from 2pm - 5pm. Those aged from 10 years old to over-18s are welcome to attend.

For further information, or to have directions emailed to you, please contact Peter Ferris, Ferris Entertaiment on 07801 493 133 or via email: info@ferrisentertainment.com.



The GEM Winter Pet Food Appeal

sponsored by SCATS Farm & Country

More than ever, our local animal shelters are under massive strain to home and feed an ever growing number of pets, that, for one reason or another, are no longer in their own homes.

Most pet owners treat their pets as part of the family and will even be including them in the family Christmas presents!

If you can help feed a sheltered animal this winter, please bring your pet food donation to The GEM in Cowbridge and we will get it to one of the local shelters.

Thank you, from all the animals!

IT'S A RAP, AS THREE LOCAL SCHOOLS COLLECT ANTI-BULLYING AWARDS...

Coun Tony Hampton with pupils and teachers from Key Stage 2 winner – St Joseph's Primary School in Penarth.

Coun Hampton with Key Stage 1 winners, Dinas Powys infants.

THREE local schools composed anti-bullying raps that were chosen as the top entries in a Vale Council competition.

The council's primary behaviour improvement team, asked schools to write a rap with music and lyrics, with the winners announced during Anti-bullying Week.

The winner of the Key Stage 1 competition was Dinas Powys Infants' School. The Key Stage 2 winner was St Joseph's Primary School in Penarth, with the School Council at High Street Primary in Barry as runner-up.

Coun Anthony Hampton, cabinet member for education and lifelong learning, and the primary behaviour improvement team presented certificates and cash prizes to the pupils to spend on items for their schools.

Coun Hampton said: "Many congratulations and thanks to all the staff and pupils who worked so hard to raise the profile of anti-bullying within the Vale by entering the competition.

"Tackling bullying is very important and it was inspiring to see such positive ideas.

"The entries were imaginative and thought-provoking and showed some real star quality!"

High Street Primary.

Barry students of the year are honoured at ceremony

Winning students at Barry were presented with their prizes by the First Minister Carwyn Jone, WJEC chairman, Coun Tony Hampton (left) and WJEC chief executive, Gareth Pierce.

Noel Facey (second from left) from Barry College won the Foundation level Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification prize. Lori Fitchett (fourth from right) from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School won the Advanced level Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification prize.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D651.

● **£2,000:** 111555.

● ***The rollover, which now stands at £8,500, was not won this week.***

● **£10:** 875882; 744211; 602823; 537919; 589133; 214833; 249671; 287167; 556481; 697771; 411450; 170958; 343705; 145676; 286393; 504032; 819475; 826950; 540587; 374426.

● **£5:** 443472; 337890; 643203; 778034; 358290; 352621; 178072; 808421; 739030; 511365; 764976; 757204; 713214; 183337; 362374; 876711; 307906; 514585; 728331; 280362; 660014; 405330; 593987; 704762; 622271; 507755; 636292; 343482; 324189; 320436; 586068; 950536; 351760; 412928; 236322; 451965; 211118; 158722; 634591; 387784; 661327; 207178; 453922; 524262; 910762; 382022; 616409; 290898; 537847; 290543; 267594; 810680; 147135; 226745; 884140; 275167; 153869; 251741; 375261; 596296.

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D652.

● **£2,000: 241437.**

● ***The rollover, which now stands at £9,000, was not won this week.***

● **£10:** 513960; 867361; 586093; 671415; 373219; 879530; 461009; 524918; 247564; 604784; 158233; 710210; 563237; 446849; 175938; 856001; 576598; 256966; 322154; 971673.

● **£5:** 331603; 523140; 909834; 483191; 238258; 614476; 600879; 468019; 194015; 437007; 899989; 505261; 372555; 675259; 814131; 482585; 304560; 174888; 372183; 717621; 422645; 780016; 378961; 590558; 649708; 588708; 812394; 440444; 599824; 279480; 583551; 311181; 484063; 572161; 702912; 841936; 331434; 367793; 701883; 250996; 282431; 220880; 719996; 517013; 837669; 614943; 342050; 711356; 440743; 155878; 348391; 805524; 389034; 679935; 618167; 124536; 886368; 300496; 711223; 211372.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

FREE CONFIDENCE COURSE

'MOVING ON', the programme that helps people gain skills and confidence for employment, further learning or volunteering is offering a free course on confidence, assertive and communication skills.

It starts on Monday, January 17 (at 9.30am–2.30pm on one day a week for six weeks.

For further information, telephone Sandra/Alyson or Bev on 01446 733034.

Group look back on 2010, and all that!

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

THE club's year officially starts in September, to match the academic year.

We often have an influx of new members at that time, so the period from September to the start of the New Year is normally used to help new members get acquainted with the basics (see below).

This time last year, Windows 7 had been around for just a couple of months.

Chris had looked at it, talked to us about it and we liked it.

Some of us started using it and it hasn't disappointed. The content of our programme was decided (as always) in response to members' wishes, so we started with a chat from our community police.

January to June gave rise to the introduction of some new (to us) subjects that are becoming more relevant to today's home computer users.

Here it must be emphasized that we make great efforts to present the talks in plain English. Technical terms are not entirely avoidable, but they are kept to a minimum and explained in straightforward terms as we go along.

Topics covered by Chris were the creation of a personal web site; the benefits of a home network and how to set one up without tears.

He insists that it is all very simple and straightforward and I am sure that it will be – eventually! (We come to find out about it all, not for someone to do it all for us, so some effort on our part is right and proper.

At the very least, we are able to ask our fellow members for further advice.)

We revisited family tree construction that these days involves much computer research.

Ceri introduced us to Microsoft Office 2007 edition and later to Excel 2007 spreadsheets.

We also brought ourselves up to date with the latest thinking on data backup to protect against losing precious information.

A couple of social evenings reinforced the friendly atmosphere and in July we had a well-attended open evening.

After the summer break, we re-started with an introductory evening and programme topic decisions.

The meetings since then were about staying in control of your computer and a long session about the hints and tips you wish someone had given you when you started computing.

Sometimes one talk naturally produces a demand for another, as when a talk that used a virtual computer gave rise to a talk about the virtual computer itself.

Our AGM will be on January 11 and after the brief formal business, we will be deciding how to respond to the needs of the members in 2011.

HOWARD DESMOND

BARRIVALE RETAIN CUP!

THE Barrivale Bridge club has not met for three weeks, but on Sunday January 9 we were invited to take part in the Inter-Club Challenge at Ponyclun.

This is an annual competition between Barrivale, Mid Glamorgan, Pencoed and Vale of Glamorgan bridge clubs.

Barrivale were defending champions and we were delighted to retain the trophy, a very good result, for two of our best players Mike Best and Mark Roderick were in Dublin playing for Wales.

The players on the day were Tim Barsby, Noelle Bond, Mike Close, Kay and Reg Dyer, Mick Green, Joan Jenkins, Graham Jones, Betty Lewis, Ann and Sean Macdougall and Irene Thomas.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information, telephone 01446 733425.

Valeways winter walks

EASY Walk, promenade and parks: On Monday, January 17 at Cold Knap car park, Barry. *For further information, contact Jan on 01446 710991.*

Cowbridge Clump, common and boardwalk – extended walk: On Wednesday, January 19 at 10.30am to 1pm. Meet at Cowbridge Town Hall car park. *For further information, contact Alan on 01446 773422.*

Ye Olde Cadoxton Village: On Sunday, January 23 at 2pm. Meet at Victoria park, Cadoxton near bowling green. *For further information, contact Di and Liinda on 01446 749000.*

Easy walk – outdoor museum and castle gardens: On Tuesday, January 25 at 1.30pm. Meet at entrance to St Fagans Castle and Museum – car park fee payable. *For further information, contact Barbara on 07765 432676.*

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

From medieval Cowbridge town to the Heritage Trial

Ten walkers, including one from the Caerphilly area, joined Rachel for a walk in the picturesque Vale of Glamorgan on Bank Holiday Monday, to celebrate the New Year.

They began at Cowbridge or Y Bont-Faen (meaning stone bridge) which lies on the site of a Roman settlement and was one of the few medieval walled towns in Wales and the remnants of the walls and towers are still visible.

Built to a medieval plan with one long street, it was divided into burgage plots, a burgage being a rented property owned by a King or lord, consisting of a house on a long narrow piece of land with the narrow end facing the street.

Leaving Cowbridge cattle market, they progressed under the fly-over and up a rocky slope which led them to an electric fence. Having negotiated that, the group entered fields walking past a wood at Beech Clump and across The Park which is directly in front of Penllyn Castle which sits on a rocky escarpment above the Thaw Valley.

The original castle was probably built by Robert Norris, who was Earl Robert of Gloucester's sheriff in the 12th century, and it is believed to be one of the first Norman keeps in Glamorgan.

The present house, built in the 1770s was remodelled by John Homfray the owner of the Penydarren Ironworks in Merthyr Tydfil, who bought the estate in 1846 and built the chapel which is now the parish church for Penllyn and is located just inside the castle grounds.

Homfray was also responsible for the beautiful woodland that surrounds the house, which in 1960 was sold to the Cory family.

Having paused to hear a brief history of the area, the group carried on across what used to be the annual Vale of Glamorgan showground and reached the church.

A stop was soon made to enjoy mulled wine from Liz and mince pies from Ann.

Refreshed, the group road-walked towards Vistla Farm, spotting a llama in a field of sheep, before turning off down a winding forest track to join the road that led to Graig Penllyn. Having passed the Barley Mow and former chapel spotting gravestones along the wall, they walked through the village.

From the nature reserve below Coed y Graig, they went down a slope near Coed y Stanby woodland to join part of Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail, created as a circular route that meanders for 69-miles through the Vale of Glamorgan, where you can walk through 6,000-years of history and stunning beauty.

Reaching the road, they crossed and went straight up through Graig Wood, where sofa-sized cut logs made it the perfect place to pause and enjoy lunch in comfort, whilst gazing at the surrounding trees, leaves and undergrowth that were all dusted with a layer of fine snow.

Before they got too comfortable, it was time to tramp on to Newforest House Farm and along the lane to re-join Valeways trail that led through a pine wood where they turned south.

Passing an ancient enclosure, they crossed the road and followed a bridle path to reach Trerhyngyll, passing the Jane Hodge Resort Hotel, across the dismantled railway line and on to the village of Aberthin, which has no shops but two pubs!

Then, taking a detour from the main road, the group followed field paths past Coed Lawn to reach the traffic lights and make their way back to Cowbridge.

On January 15, meet at 9.30am at the Barry Waterfront for a seven mile moderate walk in the St Fagans and St Brides-super-Ely area; contact Barbara on 01446 734686.

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Rhoose WI members learn about Red Cross work home and abroad

RHOOSE WI held their monthly meeting on January 6 at the village hall.

Members welcomed the return of their president, Ann Harris, who thanked everyone for their good wishes during her recent indisposition.

After receiving welfare reports and the apologies of absentees, the members settled down to listen to a talk given by Jeff Collins, Director of the Red Cross in Wales.

After stressing the need for donors to give money, rather than items of clothing or bedding which are expensive and cumbersome to ship to overseas disaster areas, Mr Collins told his listeners about the role of the Red Cross in Wales itself.

Many had little idea of the amount of involvement in emergency situations, such as the recent bad weather or in social service care. Mr Collins said that the Red Cross and the WIs must work together to provide help in the community.

The final part of the evening was devoted to dealing with plans for 2011. Members were asked to vote on proposed resolutions.

These included: opposition to 'mega-farms' for dairy cattle; encouragement for the farming of daffodils to provide help for the sufferers of Alzheimer's; opposition to the closure of libraries; the extension of the Admiral nurses network for dementia care; and legislation regarding the use of cycling helmets and mobility scooters.

The final selection of one of these resolutions will take place in May.

Members were reminded that Rhoose will be the host for their local group of WIs. Planned events include a social evening in April, a tea party in July and a carol service in December.

Eileen Eeles won the month's competition and Ann Harris the raffle.

The next meeting of Rhoose WI will take place at the village hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose on February 3 at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

Planned events: Skittles afternoon at Rhoose Social Club on January 21 at 2pm; Lunch Club at the Star Inn, Dinas Powys on January 28 at 12.30pm

JJ

Vale under-11s just hang on for victory

THE Vale of Glamorgan under-11s secured their second victory of the season over Newport Schools at the Old Penarthians ground last Saturday morning by 17 – 12, after winning a close encounter earlier in the season.

The Vale team started extremely well with Rhydian Lewis, Haaris Kahn and Rhys Durlucia combining well to feed Bevan Howell who used his skills to beat the defence from 30 metres out to score the team's first try.

Soon after, Haaris Kahn, Finlay Davies and Jake Griffiths fed the Vale backs once more for Bevan and Joseff Williams to put Harrison Ashby in space on the left wing. Ashby backed his own pace to round the Newport defenders and score near the posts, with Jake Griffiths kicking the conversion.

Newport hit back using their burly centre, who took some stopping every time he had the ball in hand, combining well with his scrum half and front row.

Handling let them down and from the resulting scrum the Vale backs handled well and put Ashby in the clear again to outpace the Newport cover.

Newport put pressure on from the restart and tackled well. A stray pass while trying to break out of defence was intercepted by the Newport centre, who fed his wing to run well and score near the posts. The try was converted to cut the Vale lead to 17–7.

In the second half, a series of penalties awarded to Newport made the Vale defence work hard, led by Oliver Rowbottom, Jack Roberts and Rhodri Hopkins.

They had to be alert to the quick thinking Newport scrum half who had come to life in the second half.

Again, the Vale were penalised for Newport to go wide and feed their right wing to score in the corner, while the Vale were left bemused at what they had done wrong (Vale 17–12).

For the remainder of the match Newport pressed hard but the Vale defence was up to the task, showing superb spirit in defence.

Both captains gave thanks to the opposing team, coaches, parents, caterers, Old Penarthians for hosting the match and to the referee, Mr. Steve Union.

Vale squad: Jake Griffiths, Finlay Davies, Jack Lee, Cameron Roy, Oliver Rowbottom, Sam Corkhill, Haaris Kahn, Jack Roberts, Rhys Durlucia (captain), Ioan Williams, Rhys Bradshaw, Harrison Ashby, Bevan Howell, Rhydian Lewis, Rhys Jones, Rhodri Hopkins, Joseff Williams, Ben Jones, Jack Little, Ioan Lewis.

DW

SWEET LINFORD LOVES TO RUN!

The GEM is in partnership with the Dogs Trust to find homes for animals at the Bridgend rehoming centre (*telephone 01656 724593*).

LINFORD

This week, a spokeswoman focuses on Linford a three-year-old Lurcher, who, as the name suggests, loves to run!

"He is a very sweet, loving boy, and would love to live with another dog. He would like a quiet home, with someone who will be at home with him, play fun games with him, and take him for regular off-lead exercise.

"He is house-trained, and gets on well with other dogs. If you think you can offer Linford the home he is looking for, please call 01656 725219, or visit us at Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend".

You can see Linford and some of his friends at www.dogstrust.org.uk

Jobseekers claim prize – *and a job!*

LUCKY jobseekers Michael Mark and Jane Huxter scooped a prize and a job - thanks to BTCV.

The social enterprise group held a prize draw giveaway for jobseekers getting back into the local labour market.

All BTCV customers who started work in November were automatically entered for a chance to win a bike, a mobile phone or a digital camera.

A spokeswoman said: "Jobseekers are referred to BTCV once they have been claiming Jobseekers Allowance for 12 months or more. This could be for many reasons, one being barriers to work that need breaking down.

"BTCV assists with overcoming these barriers by helping jobseekers to engage with employers to offer 'Trials of Work', financial assistance, re-training and development, and by offering an ŒIn-Work Support, to ensure jobseekers manage to remain in work.

Coun Christopher Elmore of Barry attended the prizegiving to present Michael and Jane with their prizes.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas
Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2010/01354/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Erection of detached three bedroom dwelling with integral garage
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent Beachcomber, Lakeside, The Knap, Barry
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Barry (Marine)

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building
Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2010/01344/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: New workshop and store to replace the former workshop and stores now collapsed
Location:/Lleoliad: Cwrt yr Ala House, Michaelston le Pit
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Cwrt yr Ala House, Michaelston Le Pit, Grade II

Development that might affect the setting of a Conservation Area
Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2010/01331/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: New front boundary wall and paving for driveway. Alterations and extension of garden store and rear boundary wall to form habitable accommodation.
Location:/Lleoliad: The Beeches, Windsor Terrace Lane, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Affecting the Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2010/01341/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development of 14 No. residential units and associated development
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to the A48, St. Nicholas
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Affecting the St. Nicholas

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest
Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2010/01341/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development of 14 No. residential units and associated development
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to the A48, St. Nicholas

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2010/01355/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development comprising 1 no. 2 person 1 bed disabled flat and 11 no. 3 person 2 bed flats and relocation of existing access road
Location:/Lleoliad: 68-84, Merthyr Street, Barry

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way
Ceisiadau a allai effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2010/01341/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed residential development of 14 No. residential units and associated development
Location:/Lleoliad: Land adjacent to the A48, St. Nicholas

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 13 January, 2011
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 13 Ionawr, 2011
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

PETERSTON SUPER ELY'S FESTIVE MARKET RAISED £1,800 FOR HALL

PHOTOS by IAN DIXON

AS previously reported, Peterston Super Ely's hall committee held a festive market , and here are some more pictures by Ian Dixon taken at the event. The market raised more than £1,800, towards refurbishment of the village hall.

ANTHONY BROWN LTD.

ESTATE AGENTS AND SURVEYORS, LLANTWIT MAJOR CF61 1XY

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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ESTATE AGENTS NAEA

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £375,000

Three storey terraced family house built circa 1830 with original features stone fireplaces, beamed ceilings. Situated in a sought after area with spacious living accommodation comprising Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/ Dining Room, Utility Room, Shower Room, Three/Four bedrooms, Bathroom, Attic Room. Oil fired central heating. Parking and gardens. Freehold. Ref 558D

NEW PRICE LLANTWIT MAJOR - £158,000

Three bedroom semi-detached house with double glazed Conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway leads to the garage which is currently used as a workshop. Garden to front and rear. No onward chain. Freehold. Ref 563D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £165,000

Well maintained three bedroom semi-detached Georgian style house and garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room with patio doors to rear, Fitted Kitchen, Newly fitted modern Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Long driveway and neatly laid gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 566D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £235,000

Modern four bedroom detached house with double garage situated at the head of a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and good size gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 567D

NEW ON THE MARKET LLANTWIT MAJOR - £179,950

Modern three bedroom semi-detached house with attached garage situated in a cul-de-sac in the south side of town comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom/ Shower Room. Gas central heating. UPVC Double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and established gardens to front and rear. No onward chain. Freehold. Ref 569D

NEW ON THE MARKET LLANTWIT MAJOR - £180,000

Modern three bedroom semi-detached house situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, 2nd reception room (formerly the garage), Fitted Kitchen, Rear Hall/Utility area, Modern Bathroom. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 570D

NEW ON THE MARKET LLANTWIT MAJOR - £225,000

Modern well maintained four bedroom semi-detached house with garage comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room with patio doors to rear garden, Fitted Kitchen, Breakfast/Utility Room, En-suite and dressing room to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and good size gardens. Freehold. Ref 571D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £289,950

Individually designed detached four bedroom house and detached tandem garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Cloakroom, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating, UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway and good size mature gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 550D

NEW PRICE BOVERTON - £149,950

Modern extended three bedroom semi-detached house and garage and conservatory to the rear comprising Porch, Lounge, Dining area, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Cloakroom/Shower Room, Family Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and open plan garden to front and enclosed rear garden. Freehold. Ref 551D

Visit our website for all our listed properties - www.anthonybrownltd.co.uk

Who wants to build what and where in the Vale?

Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd – **39 Park Crescent, Barry** – change of use to use Class A1.
Ms Julie Beynon – **Llyswen, Windmill Lane, Llanblethian** – ground and first floor extension to an existing dwelling.
Mr Jamie Brown – **2-10 Holton Road, Barry** – change of use to mixed use D1 and B1 uses to accommodate drug intervention programme.
Mr Gethin Lloyd – **11 Trepit Road, Wick** – single storey rear extension, garage and ramped access.
Mr and Mrs Aled and Lowri Phillips – **174 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – extension and alteration to the rear ground and first floor, including the demolition of an existing garage, replaced by a carport incorporating recycling, and the replacement and addition of new fence and wall to boundaries, and the replacement of the front entrance porch.
Mrs Julie Prosser – **The Swallows, Red Farm, Llangan** – retention of metal fluepipe and sky dish erected on the barn roof.
Dunraven Estates Company – **Sealands Farm, St Brides Major** – the erection of a new 24.0 long x 30.50m wide x 8.20m to ridge clear span steel portal frame multi-purpose farm building Barn B.
Mr Ray Close – **45 Oxford Street, Barry** – single storey kitchen extension to rear of property.
NNB Generation Company Limited – **Hinkley Point C, Hinkley Point, Somerset** – site clearance (including fencing, vegetation removal, demolition of existing structures and creation of alternative footpaths); earthworks (including soil stripping and storage, site levelling, spoil screening/storage for re-use on site); provision of earth retaining structures; deep excavations; provision and relocation of drainage infrastructure (including culverts, outfalls, balancing ponds); the provision and operation of plant and machinery (including concrete batching); site establishment works (including lay-over facilities, car parks, haulage roads, site access points and roundabouts, and laying replacement and/or diversion of apparatus); and other associated works, in the event that Hinckley Point C is not consented all structures would be removed and the site reinstated.
Welsh Window Systems – **2 Vere Street, Barry** – proposed rebuilding and extending of existing store to rear.
Mrs Kath Bevan – **75 Broad Street, Barry** – conversion of four bedroom dwelling into two flats.
Mr T Merrill – **17 Whitcliffe Drive, Penarth** – extension and alterations to existing detached garage to create home office.
Fitz Project Management – **Forrest Café, Porthkerry Country Park, Barry** – erection of ground cover timber decking with access ramps, steps and baluster rails.
Dunraven Estates Company – **Sealands Farm, St Brides Major** – the erection of a new 24.0 long x 30.50m wide x 8.20m to ridge clear span steel portal frame multi-purpose farm building Barn A.
Mr and Mrs Gary and Sheena Jones – **24a Forrest Road, Penarth** – proposed conversion of existing garage to habitable room.
Benton Agricultural Limited – **former Council Yard Site, Gluepot Lane, nr Llandow** – use of existing agricultural building for agricultural engineering services to tractors and farm machinery.
Mr Peter Dixon – **Fairfield, Cowbridge Road, Llantwit Major** – two storey extension to side of property and conservatory extension to the rear.
Mr Dave Ellis – **4 Leoline Close, Cowbridge** – proposed kitchen extension, and provision of dormer window to first floor bedroom.
Mr Mark Aston – **Duffryn Lloff, Tredoderidge** – erection of detached garage.
Mr Jenkins – **Cwm Hedd, Blackton Farm, Penmark** – tiled roof conservatory to rear elevation.
Mr Gareth Vaughan – **39 Boverton Brook, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – two storey and single storey extensions to the side and rear of the property.
Mr David Chandler – **78 Queen's Road, Penarth** – conversion of existing ground floor and basement office with self-contained flat above into a single dwelling house with change of use from office to residential, plus extension at rear second floor.
Tesco Stores Limited – **former Mayflower Public House, Fontygary Road, Rhoose** – retrospective application for the installation of car park lighting bollards.
Mr Stephen Bray – **The Beeches, Windsor Terrace Lane, Penarth** – New front boundary wall and paving for driveway. Alterations and extension of garden store and rear boundary wall to form habitable accommodation.
Mr D J Jennings – **Bryn Hyfryd, Wick Road, Ewenny** – Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and dormer window.
Mr Alistair Wilson – **5 Edith Road, Dinas Powys** – Retention of extension of garage to rear of property.
Mr and Mrs H Evans – **Cross Farm Bungalow, Llysworney** – Alterations and first floor extension to existing dwelling.
Mr Anthony Meakins – **3 Clos Yr Onnen, Llantwit Major** – Single storey side extension for garage and utility room.
Ty Hafan – **Hayes Road, Sully** – New care services facility, car parking and associated works.
Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd – **39-40 Park Crescent, Barry** – Erection of various advertisements in connection with Sainsbury's local convenience store.
Mrs Helen Jennings – **Llanilltud Fawr Primary School, Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major** – Installation of a seven-metre flag pole to display eco flag.
Mr C Kent – **New plot between corner house and No.1 Cory Crescent, Wyndham Park Estate, Peterston super Ely** – New dwelling.
Mr and Mrs H and B Jones – **Old School House, Cardiff Road, Cowbridge** – New three-bedroom house in part of existing curtilage of Old School House.
Newydd Housing Association – **Land adjacent to the A48, St Nicholas** – Proposed residential development of 14 no. residential units and associated development.
HSBC Bank Plc – **61 High Street, Cowbridge** – Installation of a new external DDA compliant ramp into existing banking hall.
Mr Peter Vidler – **Cwrt yr Ala House, Michaelston le Pit** – New workshop and store to replace the former workshop and stores now collapsed.
Mr C Roach – **Tregwyn Barn, Wick** – Change of use from field adjoining property to allow minimal increase of curtilage to provide car parking space for one vehicle for users of barn when used as holiday accommodation.
Mr Max Brown – **24A Wick Road, Ewenny** – Proposed dwelling and extensions adjoining 24A, Wick Road, Ewenny (converting 24A into 2 no. dwellings).
Marine Management Organisation – **Hinkley Point C, Hinley Point, Somerset** – Temporary jetty.
Mr and Mrs Lionel Davies – **Croft House, Trerhyngyll, Cowbridge** – Lawful development certificate for the change of use of land to residential land.
Mr Viv Sweet – **107 Redlands Road, Penarth** – Erection of white PVCU conservatory.
Mr Robert Warlow – **Oakleigh, 4 Chapel Row, Eastbrook** – Proposed 'granny annexe' extension, internal alterations and upgrading of roofspace to form office and playroom.
Mr Darren Young – **27 Chandlers Way, Penarth** – Two storey side extension.

A good double for Vale's Evan

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams had plenty to smile about at rainy Taunton on Monday, January 10.

He came away with a double after his nine-year-old *Chrysander* had landed the Happy New Year Claiming Hurdle and his seven-year-old *Seren Cwmtudu* the EBF Mares Novices Hurdle.

Both were ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney who is having a cracking season.

The former, a 13-2 chance, scored by three lengths from the American-bred *Cockatoo* and the latter, a 5-1 shot, got home by a length from the Paul Nicholls trained *Violin Davis*.

Williams said of *Seren Cwmtudu*: "That was a very tough effort and she's improving – she ran better than the form suggests last time at Ffos Las. I suppose it wouldn't be a surprise to see her in the mares' final at Newbury."

At Towcester, Aberthin's Tim Vaughan saddled six-year-old *Bottman* to win the Ladbrookes Novices Hurdle. Ridden by the legendary Tony McCoy, *Bottman*, a 7-2 chance,won by six lengths from Philip Hobbs' *Redbridge*.

BRIAN LEE

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- Good sized gardens to front & rear
- Stunning views over countryside
- Viewing highly recommended

£120,000

BERKROLLES AVENUE, ST ATHAN
- 3 bedroom semi detached
- 3 reception rooms
- Good size grounds
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£119,950

BRYN AWEL, BUTTRILLS ROAD
- 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & Double glazed
- 3 reception rooms
- Garage, driveway & spacious well mainained gardens
- Viewing highly recommended

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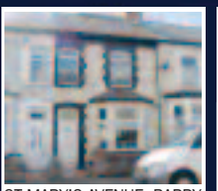
ST MARY'S AVENUE, BARRY
- 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace in central location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Ideal investment/first time purchase
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£99,950

MAES Y CWM STREET, BARRY
- 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace in central location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Very well presented throughout
- Viewing highly recommended
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain
- **Offers in excess of**

£130,000

PHILLADELPHIA CLOSE, BARRY
- 3 bedroom semi detached in quiet cul de sac location
- Gas central heating
- Timber glazing
- Good sized gardens
- Off road parking

£124,950

NEW PRICE

ORELLANA HOUSE, BARRY
- 2 bedroom second floor apartment in popular location
- Central heating & double glazed
- En suite to master bedroom
- Under croft parking
- Priced for quick sale
- Vacant possession with no chain

£119,950

NEW

BOROUGH AVENUE, BARRY
- Well presented 5 bedroom semi-detached property
- Driveway to front for approx 2-3 cars
- Two reception rooms
- Double glazed & gas central heating
- Enclosed rear garden
- Offered freehold with no chain

£179,950

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom end terrace in popular location
- Gas central heating & Double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Exceptionally large accommodation
- Offered with vacant possession and no chain

£109,950

PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
- 3 bedroom semi detached in sought after location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Additional loft room
- Detached garage, workshop/utility room & driveway
- Backing directly onto countryside with panoramic rural views
- Viewing highly recommended

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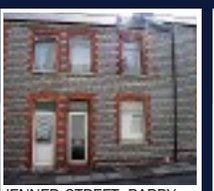

JENNER STREET, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Newly decorated throughout
- Offered freehold, with vacant possession & no chain
- Ideal investment or first time buy
- Offers invited

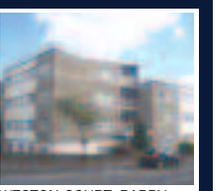
£89,950

CHURCH ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace in popular location
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£94,950

ST PAUL'S AVENUE, BARRY
- 2 bedroom ground floor flat in West End location
- Gas central heating
- Partial double glazing
- Communal rear garden shared with 1 other flat
- Would suit investor or first time buyer
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£55,000


WESTON COURT, BARRY
- 1 bedroom first floor flat in popular location
- Electric heating & double glazed
- Newly decorated & very well presented throughout
- Communal rear garden
- Off street private parking
- Viewing essential to appreciate
- Offered leasehold

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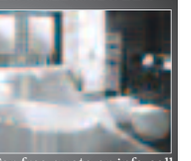

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Vacancies for LEA Governors

Applications are invited from those wishing to be considered by the appropriate Advisory Panel for the current Governor vacancies. The Code of Practice on LEA-School Relations states that LEA governors should be appointed on the basis of the skills and experience that they could bring to a school's governing body and the Council's appointment process reflects this requirement as well as the following criteria. Governing bodies need people who: -

- are committed to regular attendance at meetings (usually at least six per academic year);
- have a genuine desire to help improve school standards in partnership with the staff;
- have an interest in and knowledge of the community that the school serves;
- have a knowledge of modern education issues; and
- are committed to attend governor training courses provided by the LEA to update their skills and knowledge to enhance their ability and effectiveness as a governor.

Currently there are vacancies at the following schools: -

Albert Primary,
All Saints C/W Primary,
Ashgrove School, Barry Comprehensive,
Barry Island Primary School,
Cadoxton Primary School, Cogan Primary School,
Colcot Primary School, Dinas Powys Infant School,
Eagleswell Primary School, Gwenfo C/W Primary,
Llanilltud Fawr Primary, Murch Junior School,
Oak Field Primary School,
Pendoylan C/W Primary, Romilly Primary School,
Victoria Primary School,
Wick & Marcross C/W Primary
Y Bont Faen Primary School, Ysgol Erw'r Delyn,
Ysgol Pen y Garth, Ysgol St Curig

Please note that the meetings of Welsh Medium Schools are not all conducted in Welsh, and that where they are, translation facilities are provided.

If you feel that you can fulfil the above criteria and are interested in being considered as an LEA governor at one of the above schools please contact Jeremy Morgan on 01446 709108 (direct line) for an application form. Closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is no later than **midday on Thursday 3 February 2011.**

Swyddi i Lywodraethwyr AALL

Gwahoddir ceisiadau oddi wrth y rhai a hoffai gael eu hystyried gan y Panel Ymgynghorol priodol ar gyfer y swyddi presennol i Lywodraethwyr. Yn ôl y Côd Ymarfer ar'n rhecli cysylltiadau rhwng Awdurdodau Addysg Lleol ac Ysgolion, dylid penodi llywodraethwyr AALL ar sail y sgiliau a'r profiad sydd ganddynt i'w cynnig i gyrff llywodraethol ysgolion, ac mae proses benodi'r Cyngor yn adlewyrchu'r gofyn hwn yn ogystal â'r meini prawf canlynol. Mae ar gyrff llywodraethol angen pobl sydd: -

- wedi ymrwymo i fynychu cyfarfodydd yn rheolaidd (sef o leiaf chwe chyfarfod bob blwyddyn academaidd fel arfer);
- yn wirioneddol awyddus i helpu i godi safonau ysgolion drwy gydweithio â'r staff;
- yn ymddiddori yn y gymuned y mae'r ysgol yn ei gwasanaethu ac yn gwybod rhywfaint amdani;
- yn gyfarwydd â phrynciau addysg cyfoes; ac
- wedi ymrwymo i fynychu'r cyrsiau hyfforddi y bydd yr AALL yn eu cynnig i lywodraethwyr er mwyn meithrin eu sgiliau ac ehangu eu gwybodaeth at ddibenion cyfoes fel y bônt yn fwy abl ac effeithiol yn eu swyddi.

Mae swyddi ar gael i lywodraethwyr ar hyn o bryd yn yr ysgolion canlynol: -

Ysgol Gynradd Albert,
Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru'r Holl Saint,
Ashgrove School, Ysgol Gyfun y Barri,
Ysgol Gynradd Ynys y Barri, Ysgol Gynradd Tregatwg,
Ysgol Gynradd Cogan, Ysgol Gynradd Colcot,
Ysgol Feithrin Dinas Powys, Ysgol Gynradd Eagleswell,
Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Gwenfo,
Ysgol Gynradd Llanilltud Fawr, Ysgol Plant Iau Murch,
Ysgol Gynradd Oak Field,
Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Pendeulwyn,
Ysgol Gynradd Romilly, Ysgol Gynradd Victoria,
Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Y Wig a Marcross,
Ysgol Gynradd y Bont-faen, Ysgol Erw'r Delyn,
Ysgol Gynraeg Pen y Garth, Ysgol Sant Curig

Sylwch na fydd yr Ysgolion Cymraeg yn cynnal eu holl gyfarfodydd yn Gymraeg a phan fydd hynny'n digwydd bydd cyfieuatarau cyfieithu ar gael.

Os teimlwch y gellwch fodloni'r meini prawf uchod ac yr hoffech gael eich ystyried ar gyfer swydd llywodraethwr AALL yn un o'r ysgolion uchod, floeiwch Jeremy Morgan ar 01446 709108 (llinell uniongyrchol) a gofynnwch am ffurflen gais. **Dydd Iau 3 Chwefror 2011** erbyn canol dydd fan bellaf yw'r dyddiad cau ar gyfer derbyn ffurflenni cais wedi'u cwblhau.

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GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

FERRER
Vyvyan John

Peacefully on December 26th at his home in Barry after a long illness, Vyv aged 82 years (Retired Physics Teacher, Barry Comprehensive).

Beloved husband of Valerie, a loving father, father in law, grandfather and great grandfather.

Resting at the private funeral home of W. Spickett & Son, 181 Court Road, Barry until the funeral on Tuesday January 18th. Service and committal at 3.45 p.m. in the chapel at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend (where friends please meet).

Family flowers only, donations if desired may be sent to Cancer Research (Wales) Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 2TL.

JOAN LESLEY JONES
(Les)

Very suddenly on January 4th at home Lesley passed away, she was a lovely mother to Linda and Paul, and a proud grandmother to Sophie, Jenny, William, Oliver, Celyn and Charlie.
She will be sadly missed and always loved.
Funeral at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Friday 21st January at 1.15pm.

WALLIS
Peter Ransome D'Arcy

Peacefully on 3 January 2011, aged 87.
Much loved and missed. Mass at Our Lady & St Illtyd Church, Llantwit Major 19 January 10.30am, then burial at Bodmin New Cemetery 20 January, 2pm.
Family flowers only. Donations please to British Heart Foundation. All enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major.

DANIELS
Beverley

Sons Mike and Jeff and mother Moira wish to thank family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for attending Beverley's funeral and for the many messages of sympathy that we have received. Special thanks to the district nurses for the wonderful care that they provided. Also to Linda, Delyth and Rhian for their loving words spoken at the service. All donations made to the Velindre Trust were greatly appreciated.

JANET LEGG

The Mayor, Cllr Len Taylor, expresses his thanks for the messages of sympathy he has received following the death of the Mayoress, Mrs Janet Legg (The GEM, January 6, 2011).
On behalf of Janet's daughter Claire, son Russell and all the family, he also sends thanks for the many condolences they received, for the support at the funeral service celebrating Janet's life, and for the donations to Leukaemia Research.

JENKINS
Gladys

Widow of Bill, formerly of Pontalun Close, Barry. Passed away peacefully on January 7, aged 104. Will be missed by all who knew and loved her. Funeral at Croesyceiliog Crematorium, Cwmbran, January 25 at 3.45pm. Family flowers.

FARMAN
Thomas K

31/07/25 - 14/01/09

My Life goes on without you
But nothing is the same
I have to hide my heartache
When someone speaks your name

Your Dearly Loving Wife, Gwyneth

GRAY

After a short illness, Paul of Llantwit Major.
Dearly loved husband of the late Lorna, and loving father to Anne.
He will be sadly missed by family and friends alike.

Funeral service on Friday, 28th January, 2011 in St Cadocs Church, Llancarfan at 10.15am followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11.30am.

Family flowers only, but donations may be made to the Royal British Legion (cheques only) c/o the Funeral Director, W. A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major.

Congratulations

Congratulations

RATTANA SNOWDEN

on receiving your Diploma Award from Jane Hutt at Barry College.

Well done.

Andrew & Boys, Mum & Dad
xxx

Anniversaries

Jan & Roger IRVING
Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary
January 11th

Wishing you another happy 25 years and more – from all your friends at The GEM *xx*

Birthdays

CLARE GORE
Happy Birthday January 14th
Wishing you a wonderful day! from all your friends at The GEM

PHILIP IRWIN
HAPPY BIRTHDAY for JANUARY 8th
Hope you had a great day! From all your friends at The GEM

Thank You

A heartfelt Davies thank you...

Julian, Della, Simon and Tom Davies would like to say a very big 'thank you' to Mo, Miz and the team at The Raj Kinara, Rhoose, for making their 25th wedding anniversary such a special evening.

As always, the service and the food were exquisite and your efforts were very much appreciated.

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LLANTWIT MAJOR WI

Branch catches up on the news

THE first meeting of 2011 was a happy occasion when members were able to meet after the long break to catch up with all the news.

President Eira opened the meeting by wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2011. She apologised for cancelling the December meeting because of the ice and snow; it would have been irresponsible to put members at risk of falling.

Because the meeting was to be followed by a '12th night party', the correspondence and courses were quickly mentioned and put out to be read by interested members.

There was a discussion of the resolutions to be sent in for the 2011 NFWI AGM. It was a difficult choice to make, but most votes were given to urge the Government to support funding of research and development of natural galantamine for the treatment of Alzheimer's type dementia.

The overall winner of the 2010 monthly competition was Alma Sterritt and the overall winner of the 'bloom of the month' competition was Julia Jenkin.

The party followed with a light-hearted quiz and bingo, while the party food was being prepared. May Davies thanked the committee for all their hard work and the tasty food.

The next meeting will be on February 3 with a talk on the Tiller Girls by Pat Stewart. The competition will be a decorated fan and the stall, unwanted jewellery. New members will be warmly welcomed.

Minister opens dementia clinic

Health Minister Edwina Hart AM on Monday officially opened a new mental health unit at Glanrhyd Hospital, Bridgend.

An Assembly spokesman explained that Angelton Clinic is one element of the plan to modernise mental health services in Bridgend, providing 42 beds for older people with dementia on the Glanrhyd Hospital site.

It has been designed to provide greater privacy and dignity for patients and their families.

Accommodation includes private bedrooms with en-suite facilities, shared spaces (living room, TV lounge, dining room) and therapeutic areas.

The clinic will replace out-dated inpatient accommodation at Glanrhyd and Maesgwyn Hospitals. Patients will transfer to the modern, purpose-built inpatient facilities.

Mrs Hart said: "The challenge dementia poses in Wales is significant but a considerable amount of work is under way to improve dementia services. This centre is an example of the commitment shown by the NHS in Wales to deliver real change to those diagnosed with dementia and their carers."

Send us your news and views -
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Public Notices

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

LEGAL, PUBLIC PROTECTION & HOUSING SERVICES

MARRIAGE ACT 1994 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

Take notice that the above department has received the following application under the above Act from Sir Brooke Boothby for Fonmon Castle, Fonmon, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3ZN to be a premise approved as a venue for Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

This application and associated plans are available for public inspection between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Any person wishing to object to the grant of this approval should write to the above address giving reasons for their objection within 21 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Peter H Evans
Director of Legal, Public Protection & Housing Services

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

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DEDDF PRIODAS 1994 A DEDDF PARTNERIAETH SIFIL 2004

Hysbysir drwy hyn fod yr adran a enwir uchod wedi derbyn cais o dan y Ddeddf uchod gan Syr Brooke Boothby ar gyfer Castell Ffwl- y-mwn, Y Barri, Bro Morgannwg CF62 3ZN i fod yn safle cymeradwy ar gyfer cynnal Seremoniau Priodas a Phartneriaeth Sifil.

Gall aelodau'r cyhoedd weld manylion y cais a'r cynluniau cysylltiedig rhwng 9.00a.m. – 4.00p.m, ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU.

Os ydych chi'n dymuno gwrthwynebu'r cais hwn, dylech anfon gwrthwynebiad ysgrifenedig yn cynnwys rhesymau i'r cyfeiriad uchod cyn pen 21 diwrnod ar ôl cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn.

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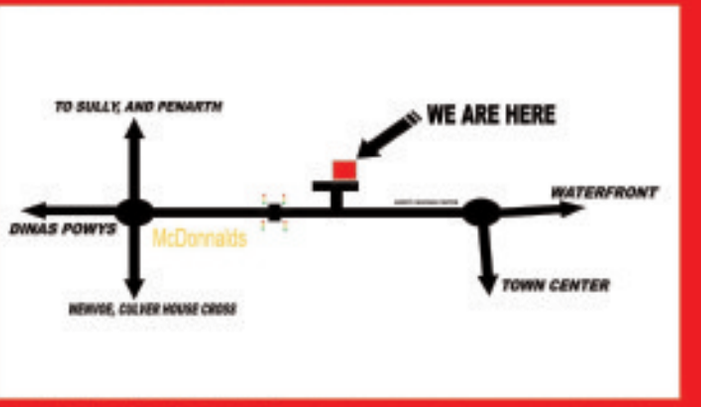

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COWBRIDGE MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Cowbridge under-14s earn win over Pencoed

Action from the under-14s game

THIS week saw Cowbridge under-14s visiting Pencoed, which was a first for this group of players.

For the first five minutes Pencoed dominated possession with Cowbridge struggling to get their hands on the ball. However, good work on the floor from Jac Roberts, Sam Corkill and Cameron Roy saw the Cowbridge back line able to test their opponents.

After a series of drives from Dan Taylor, Ellis Simon and Morgan Gore the ball was fed to Rhys Bradshaw, who opened the Cowbridge account, with a conversion from Jake Griffiths adding the extras.

Bevan Howells stormed over for a try, once again converted, and Cowbridge were now in the ascendancy.

Cowbridge were camped in the Pencoed half and Bevan Howells added the third score, converted by Evan Williams.

It was all change for the second half, however, and Pencoed would dominate this period of play. Despite stout defence from Dan Marshall, Tom Jose, Angus James, William Davies, Oliver Reynolds and Dylan Cottle, Pencoed recorded two unanswered tries to narrow the scoreboard.

Once again the line up was shuffled for the final third and Cowbridge would proceed to dominate the action. They had the upper hand up front, allowing their talented back line the space to test their opposite numbers.

As Cowbridge forced play close to the Pencoed line, Ioan Lewis darted over for the next score, converted by Jake Griffiths.

Bevan Howells attacked the blind side and added the next score, converted by Morgan Gore. Once again Cowbridge applied the pressure and Jake Griffiths pounced to add the final try of the match, converted by Evan Williams.

Final score - Pencoed 21 Cowbridge 42.

Many thanks to all the players, parents and coaches from Pencoed, for their part in an excellent morning of rugby.

Squad; Angus James, Bevan Howells, Cameron Roy, Daniel Marshall, Daniel Taylor, Dylan Cottle, Ellis Simon, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, James Guard, Morgan Gore, Oliver Reynolds, Rhys Bradshaw, Rhys Davies, Sam Corkill, Tom Coates, Tom Jose, William Davies.

Under 12s - Rumney (home)

Cowbridge entertained long standing rivals Rumney and after a hard fought and enjoyable game pulled off a well deserved win scoring three tries to their opponents nil.

Both teams settled in quickly but the heavier Rumney pack began to provide good possession for their backs. Stout defence by the home side prevented the visitors from establishing an advantage and brave tackling from Matthew Keating, Charlie Martin and Seán Davies helped Cowbridge to weather the storm.

They opened the scoring when Harry Hopkins forced his way over the line and Cai Evans converted. For the remainder of the half the territorial battle swayed back and forth but there was no further scoring.

The second half began in a similar vein to the first, with the Rumney forwards driving hard into the opposing half but quick turn overs by the Cowbridge forwards allowed their backs to create a number of breaks.

Toff Patel, James Holder and Michael Thomas forced their way close to the Rumney line but the visitors hung on.

Cowbridge finally scored the second try that had eluded them for so long when scrum half Osian John released the ball to centre Rhys Beynon, who scored in the corner.

Cowbridge's third try soon followed and was probably their best of the season so far. A thirty metre run by Dan Bunny led to a ruck on the left hand side of the field. The ball then travelled through seven pairs of hands before wing Harrison Stevens crossed in the right hand corner to make the game safe.

Cowbridge made a number of changes, including newcomer Will Cousins, who acquitted himself well. The game ended with Cowbridge dominating all aspects of play and well deserving of their 17 points to nil victory.

Outstanding in their pack were Duncan Ace, Ben Terry and James Waters whilst Cai Evans controlled the game well from outside half.

Under 13s - Rumney (home)

Cowbridge under-13s put in a spirited performance against Rumney RFC.

Rumney scored a converted try to take an early lead; however, the Cowbridge pack started to crank up the pressure, enabling the backs to show their attacking prowess, ably led by captain Matt Harper. The Cowbridge pack was really taking command and Tom Evans and George Thomas led by example throughout the whole game.

Cowbridge's flying wingers Tom Trotman (three tries) and Nathan Robson put points on the board with the ball being passed beautifully through the backs to create the opportunities.

Rumney hit back with a last minute try that was thoroughly deserved and reflected their spirit throughout the whole game.

Squad; Cai Thomas Jenkins, Owain Thomas Jenkins, Josh Brace, George Thomas, Tom Evans, Jac Davies, Luke John, Frazz McGann, Nathan Robson, Ashford Thomas, Gabe Newham, Matt Harper, Hywel Williams, Tom Trotman, Rian Thomas, Liam Sloane, Aled Evans, Tom Whitehouse, Olly Brown, Jonny Harvey.

ML

Stacey enjoys boxing success

LLANTWIT MAJOR ABC travelled to the Elthorne Sports Centre, Hanswell, London W7 on Saturday, January 8.

Stacey Dixon, the daughter of coach and matchmaker Mickey Dixon, boxed Andriana Blunstone of Hanwell School.

The first round saw the Llantwit Major Comprehensive fifth form girl use her reach advantage to good effect.

In the second Stacey did much the same but more accurate with her blows that caught the eye of the judges at ringside.

The Hanwell boxer realised that she was behind on points going into the third and final round, and started off at a fast pace. Stacey did well to keep her at bay scoring well with both hands.

At the end of the of the contest Stacey caught Andriana with a hard right to the head, and as the referee was just about to administer a mandatory standing count, the final bell sounded.

The referee congratulated both young ladies on a good contest but Stacey was declared the winner by a clear points decision.

If you are interested in boxing and would like more information about our club contact Tony Meakin 01446796784 or Mikey Dixon on 07970394966.

TM

As new season dawns, Harvey is ready 'to push to the limit'

TOM HARVEY has acknowledged that he still has plenty to learn as he graduates to a higher level and prepares to make his debut on the European stage in 2011.

He will nonetheless be 'pushing absolutely to the limit' in a quest to 'do some spectacular things' over the course of the year ahead.

Tom has already proven himself as one of the country's most promising young talents by storming to the British crown in the Comer Cadet class of the Super 1 Series in 2010 – as well as securing an excellent third place in the title standings of fellow national championship Formula Kart Stars (FKS). But as he now takes the step-up to KF3 as one of the very youngest drivers in the field, the highly-rated young South Wales speed demon ecognises that he has a real challenge on his hands.

With more than half as much power again at his disposal to what he has been used to before, the 13-year-old is palpably his new TonyKart mount, whose speed he describes as 'just amazing'.

Although his testing schedule hit a bit of a setback before Christmas due to illness, he has rapidly been playing catch-up, and at PF International he lapped a scant 15 hundredths of a second shy of the benchmark – and quicker than some far more experienced campaigners.

That kind of form is tremendously encouraging as Tom looks to build upon his early progress and really come out-of-the-blocks fighting at the start of the season, when the serious stuff begins.

With Williams Motorsport, the Bonvilston-based hotshot is confident he could be in no better place as he embarks upon his learning curve.

Not only does the team's reputation precede it, but having engineered Newport ace Jordan Chamberlain to European and British Championship glory in 2009, and the runner-up laurels in the World Championship in 2010, Williams clearly has a history of getting results with Welsh drivers. As omens go, there could be far worse.

"It's a team that is well-known for bringing drivers on and has an excellent record of success," Tom, a Cowbridge Comprehensive pupil, enthused.

"We've been working together for a couple of months now preparing for the season ahead, and we get on really well.

"The kart actually doesn't feel that different to a Cadet – it's mainly the increase in speed in KF3, and particularly the middle-end power of the engine that really pulls you through corners and you've just got to hang on! That really hurts your neck muscles, and you need to keep your arms locked, too – if you hit a bump, you've got to stay straight to keep the kart pointing in the right direction.

"My physical strength is one aspect that I know I need to work on before the season starts. At the moment I can do 20 or 25 laps non-stop, but it will be tough in the heat of a summer's day... It will take a bit more testing to build my stamina up to where it needs to be. I'm not ready yet – I can do the lap times, but in a race situation I would be lagging towards the end – but I will be ready.

"There's another KF3 driver in the team with a year's experience in the class already, so I need to work hard to catch up and get onto his pace and then beat him. I want to be the number one inside the team, like every driver does. I want to be pushing absolutely to the limit, doing some spectacular things and really getting my name out there."

Vale trainer's Wincanton winner

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams landed the opener (novices' hurdle handicap division one) at Wincanton on Saturday with his six-year-old bay gelding *Buck Mulligan* who, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, came home eight lengths clear of the Paul Nicholls trained Round Tom.

Buck Mulligan, an 8–1 chance, was running for the first time in 265 days.

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THE Cadoxton schools of Tae Kwon Do attended the final grand prix tournament in a series of six hosted by Mal Johns of WOMAA.

Points are awarded to the first four places in all categories entered, resulting in a series grand champion at the end of the year.

The first category was the pattern sections. Thomas Haysham and Lucy Newman got the club off to a good start by taking second and third places.

Once the pattern categories were completed, the sparring categories began, with the Cadoxton school be represented in most categories.

On the day, successful in their respective categories were: **Matthew Bennett**, second in point and third in continuous sparring; **Liam Rees,** first in continuous and second in point sparring; **Bradley Halford,** first in point sparring; **Jamie Halford**, first in continuous and third in point sparring; **Morganne Gomez Jones**, first in both the point and continuous sparring; **Dominic Todd**, first in point and second in continuous sparring; **Ollie Tipples**, first in point and second in continuous sparring; **Charlotte Sullivan**, third in point sparring; **Lucy Newman**, second in point, second in continuous sparring and second in the pattern sections; **Morgan Harrhy**, second in continuous sparring; **Hayley Mattey**, third in point sparring; **Thomas Haysham**, first in point and first in continuous sparring, second in patterns.

At the end, the points were added up from the previous six tournaments with the Cadoxton School finishing top overall with 15 grand champions and nine runner up positions.

2010 WOMAA Grand champions are as follows:

Matthew Bennett, grand champion in points and continuous sparring; **Jamie Halford**, grand champion in points and continuous sparring; **Dominic Todd**, grand champion in points and continuous sparring; **Liam Rees**, grand champion in continuous sparring, runner up in point sparring; **Ollie Tipples**, grand champion in point sparring, runner up in continuous sparring; **Thomas Haysham**, grand champion in continuous sparring, runner up in point sparring and the pattern section; **Hayley Mattey**, grand champion in point sparring; **Thomas Haysham**, grand champion in point sparring, runner up in continuous sparring and patterns; **Lucy Newman**, losing out on the last day ended up as runner up in the point and continuous sparring and pattern sections; **Bradley Halford,** grand champion in points and continuous sparring.

Throughout the year, Bradley competed in a higher category and finished as runner up.

Charlotte Sullivan, grand champion in point sparring was awarded the WOMAA competitor of the year.

Morganne Gomez Jones, grand champion in continuous sparring, was runner up in point sparring and was awarded the WOMAA student of the year.

For further information and training times phone Barry 406372 or 07811934079; see www.taekwondoassociationeurope.co.uk.

RT

PICTURED: Matthew Bennett, Morganne Gomez Jones, Dominic Todd, Jamie Halford, Liam Rees, Bradley Halford. Charlotte Sullivan, Lucy Newman, Ollie Tipples. Missing from the photograph are Hayley Mattey, Morgan Harrhy and Thomas Haysham.

'Jekyll and Hyde' Llantwit Major hold their nerve for win

LLANTWIT Major Reserves maintained their position as league leaders with a real Jekyll and Hyde display.

The first half saw the Major way below par, in contrast in the second period, when they were at times unplayable.

Llantwit, playing their first game for nearly a month due to the recent inclement weather and no fixtures over the festive period, were hoping to start brightly.

This was not to be the case as Cadoxton started much more the eager of the two sides, playing some good football.

The visitors deservedly took the lead after 10 minutes with a well-taken goal despite a hint of offside.

The home team found themselves level 10 minutes later, when the ball fell to Jason Fairchild. The veteran midfielder's goal-bound effort found the net with the help of a slight deflection.

The remainder of the first period petered out into a dour, scrappy affair with neither team creating much in the way of goal-scoring chances.

A few choice words from managers Callard and Grafton during the interval had the desired effect.

Llantwit began the second half with a vigour and desire that was lacking in the opening 45 minutes and blew their opponents away with a 15-minute spell of football that was worthy of a higher stage.

The rejuvenated Stephen Phillips notched the home teams second on 50 minutes, taking his tally to three goals in two games, the big No 9's determination was rewarded as he prodded home.

Phillips then turned provider for strike partner Dom White on 55 minutes, squaring the ball after tenacious work for White to stroke the ball into the gaping net.

The fourth came on the hour mark, Fairchild securing his brace with a powerful drive from 20 yards out after good team play involving Bright, Thomas, Phillips, White and Grafton.

The visitors added their second with 20 minutes remaining, the full-back rifling the ball past the unexercised Callard in the Major goal.

There were a few nervous moments five minutes later as Llantwit defender Owen Morris sent a bullet header nestling into the corner of his own net to give the visitors their third.

Llantwit, confident in their own ability, didn't panic, continuing to play free flowing football and creating chances.

Within minutes, Bright thumped home from the edge of the box for the fifth to get the goal his fine display warranted.

The Major saved the best until last, substitute Joel Preece scoring with a rasping drive with just five minutes remaining, again the goal coming after some superb passing and movement throughout the team.

Man of the match was awarded to Jason Fairchild, who didn't waste a single pass, battled well and scored two fine goals.

Llantwit team: D Callard 6, O Morris 6, D Major (Capt) 7, J Grahame 7, J Thomas 7, G Jennings 7, P Grafton 7, J Fairchild 8, C Bright 8, D White 7, S Phillips 7. Subs: T Howles, D Lansdown, J Preece, R Grapes.

DC

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195/65R15	Avon ZX5	£55.34	£103	£199
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205/50R16	Avon ZX5	£80.84	£152	£291
205/55R16	Avon ZX5	£69.71	£132	£250
225/45R17 XL	Avon ZX5	£92.24	£179	£342
225/40R18 XL	Avon ZX5	£108.94	£203	£393
205/50R16	Hero	£53.67	£101	£194
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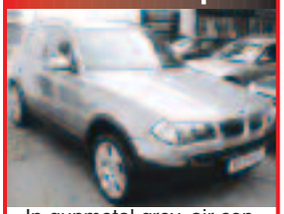

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34th Welsh Schools Inter Schools Cross-Country Championships, Penlan, Brecon

Vale girls outshine the boys at year's last fixture

THE Vale girls outshone the boys at the last major schools' cross-country fixture of the term – the 34th Welsh Schools' Inter Schools championships, held for the 10th year at the Penlan arena at Brecon.

On a damp afternoon, with a bitingly cold north east breeze, the girls gained three sets of team medals, plus an individual top three placing, while the boys went away empty-handed.

In the opening event of the six race programme – for under-13 girls in years 7 and 8 – Cowbridge year-7 Seren Allin underlined her fitness and confidence level by tracking the runaway winner, Rosa Yates (Brynteg, year-8), to take third place in a field of nearly 100 finishers, a performance which sets her up nicely for the major competitions after Christmas.

Backing Seren were three year-8 pupils, Rebecca Thomas (24th), Ela Emyr (38th) and Brooke Langdon-Cryer (65th), with the team score of 130 proving good enough to take second place medals.

In addition to the Cowbridge contingent, it was a delight to see a significant Stanwell squad taking part, with year-8 Ana Mirza-Davies (23rd) leading her A squad to fourth place.

There was an unexpected outcome in the third race – for girls in years 9 and 10. Year-10 Megan Osborne (Llantwit) has always been in control of her Cardiff and the Vale Schools rivals and teammates in age group races in the past but here, in a top quality field, she was knocked off top spot by Kate Coker (Stanwell, year-9).

Kate had a real confidence-boosting run to finish fourth with Megan, in seventh place, gaining some compensation by leading the Llantwit team – Erin Hayes (17th), Lucy Tarrant (19th) and Ellie Atkinson (53rd) – to the second place medals. Both Kate and Megan will be looking for even better performances in the second half of the winter cross-country programme.

'It's freezing – four Cowbridge girls prepare for the under-13 start.

In the senior girls' race, year-12 Bethan Daw was the leading Vale finisher, taking a very creditable eighth place.

2009 was the first time in 10 years that Cowbridge had failed to take gold team medals in at least one age group at this event. After that blip, the Vale school was back to winning ways thanks to its year-11 team squad in the penultimate race of the day – for senior girls.

Although the first scorer to finish – Fiona Bray – was no higher than 16th, the team packed very well with Rachel Bradshaw (20th), Katie Wynne (22nd) and Bethan Allman (25th) chalking up a winning score of 83 points.

The top performance by a Vale boy came from Rian Thomas in the under-13 race. The year-8 pupil finished a very creditable 10th in the biggest field of the day – 105 finishers – and led his team – Dewi and Huw Bennett and Alex Love – to fourth place.

Year-11 Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive) had been unwell before the event, and perhaps should not have competed. To his credit, he gave it a good go in a high quality field, but had to settle for 14th place.

One of the Vale boys who should have left the event feeling happy was Dafydd George. The Bro Morgannwg year-9, at the bottom end of the age group, again underlined his potential with a fine run in the under-15 race to take 15th place against more experienced boys.

More than 400 pupils made the long journey from all corners of Wales to compete, and the chairman of the Welsh Schools association – former Llantwit PE teacher Mrs Kath Elias – has asked that special thanks should be recorded to those schools like Cowbridge, Llantwit and Stanwell, who brought scoring teams to the event.

With the pre-Christmas schools programme now completed, many of the leading Vale runners who took part at Brecon can now start preparing and training to represent Cardiff and the Vale Schools at the Schools Invitation Inter-County & Inter District match, to be held within the McCain Cardiff Cross Challenge, at Blackweir on Sunday, January 16, 2011.

Kate Coker (Stanwell, 226) and Megan Osborne (Llantwit, 466) the top Vale pupils in the under-16 girls race.

Results of Vale pupils: **Senior boys** – Years 11-14 – 5,300m – 54 finishers: 14 Matthew Edwards (Barry) 18:11; 26 Dominic Farr (Bro M) 19:22; 32 Rhys George (Bro M) 20:01; 41 Joseff Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 20:51.

Under-16 boys – Years 10 and 11 - 4,120m – 76 finishers: 15 Dafydd George (Bro M) 15:19; 30 Elliot Richards (Stan) 16:02; 46 Tom Morgan (Cow) 16:38; 56 Ieuan Jones (Stan) 17:18; 57 Jason Sami (Cow) 17:28; 68 Liam Martin (Cow) 18:39; 73 Miles Jenkins (Cow) 19:07; 75 Chris Powell (Cow) 21:14.

Teams: 7 Cowbridge 244.

Under-14 boys – Years 7 and 8 - 2,800m 105 finishers: 10 Rian Thomas (Cow) 10:34; 22 Dewi Bennett (Cow) 10:54; 33 Alex Love (Cow) 11:21; 43 Aled George (Bro M) 11:35; 47 Spencer Robinson (Stan) 11:41; 49 Huw Bennett (Cow) 11:44; 61 Morgan Humphries (Stan) 11:53; 63 Sean Davies (Cow) 11:54; 64 Luke Jeffries (Cow) 11:55; 76 Will Gale (Stan) 12:19; 99 Nick Mackey (Stan) 13:28; 101 Lewis Campbell (Stan) 13:45; 102 Rhys Fford (Stan) 13:53.

Teams: 4 Cowbridge 114; 16 Stanwell 283.

Senior girls – Years 11-14 - 4,120m - 41 finishers: 8 Bethan Daw St Cyres 16:56; 14 Catlin Bryant (Cathed) 17:40; 16 Fiona Bray (Cow) 17:50; 20 Rachel Bradshaw (Cow) 19:22; 22 Katie Wynne (Cow) 19:24; 25 Bethan Allman (Cow) 20:01; 29 Anthea Young (Llantwit) 20:43.

Teams: 1 Cowbridge 83.

Under-16 girls – Years 9 and 10 - 3640m – 69 finishers: 4 Kate Coker (Stan) 13:31; 7 Megan Osborne (Llantwit) 13:42; 17 Erin Hayes (Llantwit) 14:11; 19 Lucy Tarrant (Llantwit) 14:24; 32 Miriam Bennett (Cow) 15:16; 49 Natasha Johnson (Cow) 16:48; 53 Ellie Atkinson (Llantwit) 17:17; 56 Laura Gale (Stan) 17:58; 57 Eleanor Morgan (Cow) 17:59; 60 Bethany Cleave (Llantwit)18:18; 63 Jessica Ashill (Stan) 19:00; 64 Megan Langdon-Cryer (Cow) 19:08.

Teams: 2 Llantwit 96; 6 Cowbridge 202.

Under-14 girls – Years 7 and 8 - 2,800m – 94 finishers: 3 Seren Allin (Cow) 10:53; 23 Ana Mirza-Davies (Stan) 12:10; 24 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 12:11; 26 Emily Wooster (Stan) 12:14; 38 Ela Emyr (Cow) 12:33; 40 Annabelle Birch-Hurst (Stan) 12:35; 54 Ysobelle Williams (B of Llandaff) 13:03; 58 Ffion Adams (Stan) 13:20; 61 Georgia Logan-Davies (Stan) 13:23; 65 Brooke Langdon-Cryer (Cow) 13:30; 67 Alicia Thomas (Cow) 13:32; 69 Sally Gambling (Cow) 13:34; 72 Rebecca Humpage (Stan) 13:38; 75 Tizzie Birch-Hurst (Stan) 13:56; 76 Cerys Bradshaw (Cow) 13:57; 87 Emily Ross (Stan) 14:41; 88 Niamh Jenkins (Cow) 14:43; 89 Daisy Williams (Stan) 14:47.

Teams: 2 Cowbridge 130; 4 Stanwell 147; 10 Stanwell B 295; 11 Cowbridge B 300.

Report by PETER MORRIS
Photographs by IAN DIXON

Seren Allin (Cowbridge) on her way to individual bronze and team gold in the under-14 race.

GEM sport

AFTER VICTORY OVER DERI ...

Cowbridge RFC dig deep and are now unbeaten this year!

LAST Saturday saw Cowbridge First XV travel to Deri, in the heart of the Rhymney Valley, for their first encounter since October 23.

In brisk conditions, the game kicked off and hooker Jac Williams had to leave the field within minutes with a cut eye, replaced by Rhys Price.

Deri were the first to get the scoreboard ticking over after five minutes with a well-worked converted try through their three-quarter line, going under the posts.

Nine minutes in saw Lakin's first penalty attempt go wide, but unbowed by this, the dominant Cowbridge pack exerted sustained pressure to see blood replacement Rhys Price touch down in the corner. A superb touchline conversion from Lakin saw Cowbridge level matters.

The Cowbridge pack had their tails up and within minutes another forward-dominated surge saw them cross the line – but this was deemed to be held up by the referee.

Cowbridge continued to attack and the ball was spread wide to Dan Wilcock who, after cleverly evading several cover tackles, held the ball up for Richard Howson go over in the corner. Lakin was unsuccessful with his conversion attempt (score 7-12).

Deri then went on the attack and were awarded a penalty in front of the posts for holding on, which they kicked.

A minute later, Rhys Price charged down a clearance attempt by the Deri 10, and the resultant scrum saw a penalty reversal in favour of Cowbridge, which Lakin duly converted, score: 10-15. After some repair work to his eye, Jac Williams bravely returned to the field to replace the dynamic Price.

Just before half-time, Deri were awarded a scrum 15 metres from the Cowbridge line, and some confusion in what had been a resolute defence saw Deri cross under the posts. The try was converted, for a half-time score: 17-15.

In the second half, Cowbridge carried on where they left off with Howson making a superb break to set up a ruck near the Deri 22-metre line.

The Bridge were awarded a penalty for a Deri transgression which Lakin unfortunately pushed wide. Minutes later, after another Deri ruck transgression, Cowbridge were awarded yet another penalty. This time, Lakin made no mistake to put Cowbridge in front again.

An act of pugilism by a Deri player saw the game's first yellow card in what had been a hard but fair encounter. Cowbridge took the opportunity to capitalise on their one-man advantage to take the resultant penalty in the form of a scrum near the Deri line. This saw stand-in No 8 Carwen Davies go over from close quarters. Lakin was again successful with a difficult conversion (score 17-25).

The game was all but put to bed with 10 minutes to go, but then scrum-half Dewi Edwards left the field with what was confirmed as a broken arm. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Howson moved to scrum-half and replacement hooker Price returned to the field to play in the centre!

The last 10 minutes was played at a frenetic pace with Deri attempting to claw back the deficit, Cowbridge were committed in defence, with Birchenough, as he had done throughout the game, making some crucial big hits. Howson also pulled off a magnificent try-saving tackle in the corner. Cowbridge held on to the ball from the resultant line out to count down the seconds, but the referee awarded Deri a somewhat dubious penalty, from which they scored the final unconverted try of the game. **Final score Deri 22 Cowbridge 25.**

Overall, a fine performance from the boys after such a long lay-off. They showed great commitment in defence plus some superb forward play. More of the same is needed next week when Cefn Coed visit the Athletic Field kick-off 2.30pm. Come on down and show your support!

RV/RK/NJ

BAR 44 SQUASH TEAM ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

ABOVE: Cowbridge A team were recently crowned the South Wales Division Two East Section A Champions. Pictured from left to right are: Niall Sloan (no 5); Jon Bisson (no 2); Nick Guard (no 1 and captain); Simon Payne (no 4); Garfield Leask (no3).

The Cowbridge Bar 44 team start the new campaign with a home South Wales Cup match versus Bridgend tonight (Thursday, January 13) – all supporters are welcome.

All three teams start their league programmes next week, with the A and C teams travelling away while the B team play host to Old Penarthians at the Athletic Ground courts (January 20).

Club and membership details available from Chairman Clive Prigg (01446 773729) or club captain russ.watts@btinternet.com

Tom David's long journey pays off

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

'HAVE saddle, will travel,' is the motto of Tom David, who last week landed the Victor Chandler.com Juvenile Hurdle at Ayr on Mary Findlay's four-year-old *First Fandango* which is trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthin.

In an exciting finish, the 5-4 favourite held on to win by a head from *Vosges*.

At Fakenham, *Lukie Victor,* trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, and ridden by Adam Wedge, made all the running to win the Wensum Handicap Chase.

The 10-year-old was winning for the first time since 2008 and went off the 15–8 favourite.

Williams had plenty to smile about at Ffos Las where he saddled a double with *Oscar GoGo* and *Pilgreen*. The former, ridden by Adam Wedge, had four lengths to spare over the Tim Vaughan-trained *BetABob* in the handicap chase and the latter beat *Master Fiddle* by two lengths in the maiden hurdle.

Confidently ridden by Paul Moloney, *Pilgreen* was backed from 8–1 to 7–2 to land some nice bets.

Scots lie in wait!

I WONDER if any of your readers could tell us if there is any truth in the rumour that several Welsh rugby team members have applied to get on 'Strictly Come Dancing'?

It is said that this is to keep them in shape after the Six Nations competition, and let's face it – it did no harm at all to one Welsh player who participated!

Do I hear you saying: "It's better than chasing a sheep around the mountains in your kilts and wellies"?

Well, I'm not sure, at least we get fresh air and no "Brucie"!

However, you will have noticed how much Scotland has improved so you know what to expect on Saturday, February 12. As long as you beat England on Friday, February 4, we promise to be gentle with you!

Oh, by the way, any of you are in our area, let me know and we will organise a get-together.

Tom Handy,
Crieff, Scotland.

Send us your sports reports and news - email
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Cowbridge cricketers can take a tip from those Ashes heroes

THE Ashes are coming home and while praise for such an achievement must go to the players that took to the field, it cannot have gone unnoticed that both the players and pundits have been quick to praise the meticulous planning and preparation that was done prior to the start of the Test Series.

Cowbridge Cricket Club had a reasonably successful 2010 season but is determined to improve in 2011.

Pre-season training is a prerequisite to success and the club is therefore delighted that they will be able to use the recently completed indoor facilities at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Pre-season training/coaching will begin on Wednesday, January 19 for 11 weeks prior to the start of the senior and junior league season at the end of April.

Training and coaching for seniors and under-15s will be from 6.30pm-8.30pm, under-11s from 6.30pm-7.30pm and under-13s from 7.30pm-8.30pm. Coaching will be provided by fully qualified ECB coaches. Existing and new members of all ages and abilities are most welcome.

The cricket club's AGM will be held on Thursday, February 3 at 7.30pm in the Athletic Club. All existing members are encouraged to attend as this gives you the opportunity to put forward your opinions and suggestions on how your club should be run.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Smart on 07710 088581 or at jonathan.smart@dtz.com. Alternatively visit the club's website at www.cowbridgecricket.co.uk

Junior teams back in action!

AT last, the football season resumes after a six-week break without matches due to snow and water-logged pitches.

There were only two matches played at Llantwit with the other pitches waterlogged after heavy overnight rain, and all mini football also off.

The under-12As kept their unbeaten home record with a late 3-2 victory over Cogan B. They were trailing for most of the match and came to life in the final 10 minutes to snatch a late win with goals from Jack Barnett (two) and Keiron Griffiths.

Sully Sports entertained the under-12Bs and were far too strong for the Llantwit lads and won 9-3. Joe Nott (two) and Jonnie Sparks scored for Llantwit, while team mates Tom Spargo and Scott Bunting both played well.

Despite the long lay off, the under-13 side carried on where they left off with a 10-0 win over High Street Harriers. Richard Stephens scored five and the other goals were shared between Kristian Jones, Luke Allison, Harvey Stockford, Gabriel Oram and William Perkins.

The under-14s visited Holton Road and gave a good display in a 0-0 draw. Both sides fought hard to break the deadlock, with Holton on top in the first half with Llantwit's Cameron Davies and Hugo Billington on top form in containing their lively opponents.

The Major dominated the second half with Jake Sutch, Leon Morris and Lewys Morgan all going close to securing victory. Alex Griffiths and Kyle Harman played well in defence to keep Holton in check.

Connor Taylor struck twice for the under-15 A team who visited Porthkerry Panthers and beat their hosts 2-1 to complete a league double.

Fixtures for January 15: Under-12 A v Dinas Powys B away; under-12 B v Rhoose home; under-13 v Dinas Powys home; under-14 A v Penmark United home; under-14 B v Sully Sports A away; under-15 A v Llantwit B home; under-15 B v Llantwit A away; under-16 no fixture.

GWYN JOHN

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